United Nations S/PV.4461

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4461st meeting

Wednesday, 30 January 2002, 9 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Gayan	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Guinea	Mr. Fall
	Ireland	Mr. Ryan
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-23521 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council decides to extend an invitation under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan, was escorted to a seat at the Security Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by the Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai. After the briefing, in view of the time constraints, I shall make a statement on behalf of all the members of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Karzai.

Mr. Karzai (Afghanistan): I am privileged to address the Council on behalf of the people of Afghanistan.

Having experienced the ravages of war for 23 years and having been taken hostage by a group of terrorists, we are once again free to determine our destiny. We will strive to build a Government that responds to the wishes of our people and behaves as a responsible member of the international community, to which we owe a great deal. We could not have achieved our freedom without the sustained help and attention of the international community. The United Nations, and particularly this Council, played a pivotal role in making the historic Bonn Agreement possible.

On 22 December 2001, power was peacefully transferred to the Interim Administration of Afghanistan. A *Loya Jirga* is to take place by 22 June this year and we fully intend to abide by its decision to select a head of State and a transitional Government. A constitution is to be prepared during the transitional period and ratified by a constitutional *Loya Jirga*. Our people desire the creation of a democratic Government and we intend to act upon their wishes.

Our people understand and appreciate the efforts of the United Nations in laying the foundation of a peaceful Afghanistan. We are grateful to Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his personal and continued engagement in seeking a resolution of the Afghan crisis. The Afghan people are appreciative that he personally visited Afghanistan and took time to see for himself the devastated parts of the city of Kabul. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, has earned the gratitude of our nation for his tireless efforts in making the Bonn Agreement possible and for his continued efforts to implement its provisions.

On 25 January 2002, we completed one of the major provisions of that Agreement. The United Nations appointed a 21-member commission to organize the emergency *Loya Jirga*. We count on the sustained engagement of Mr. Brahimi and the entire United Nations body to continue their partnership with us. I would also like to thank the United Nations staff and the international community for their continued and vital efforts in helping us deal with the ongoing humanitarian crises in Afghanistan.

Security is the foundation for peace, stability and economic reconstruction. I have personally spoken to hundreds of delegates from different parts of Afghanistan; all of them have strongly expressed that security is the key issue. Thanks to this Chamber's resolve and unity, multinational forces have been deployed in the capital city, Kabul. Our people look upon the presence of these forces as a sign of the continued commitment of the international community to peace and security in Afghanistan. Our nation has been reassured of the commitment of many world leaders, many of whom are represented in this Chamber.

We are committed to creating the national institutions that would ensure the security of our people. The creation of a national police force and a national army, however, will require some time. Extending the presence of multinational forces in Kabul and expanding their presence to other major

cities will signal the ongoing commitment of the international community to peace and security in Afghanistan. We hope that the Council will authorize an extension and expansion of the mandate of these forces.

Although the Interim Administration has been in place for one month, we have already agreed on a vision for the road ahead. Our vision is one of a prosperous, secure and peaceful Afghanistan. We are marching ahead with the objective of building a credible State with an efficient and transparent Government.

Our Government will be accountable to its citizens as well as to the international community. We will build an effective and competitive private sector, harnessing the entrepreneurial abilities of the Afghan people, and will develop a civil society with democratic institutions. Our goal is to establish the rule of law and an accountable, transparent governmental system. We will work hard to attract foreign direct investment, thus generating sufficient revenue to replace international assistance over time. This new Afghanistan will bring prosperity to its trading partners and stability to this region of the globe.

The Conference in Tokyo provided a venue for the international community to make an initial financial commitment to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. We intend to use these resources in an accountable, transparent and efficient manner. We will not permit the evil of corruption to rob our people of the opportunity to build prosperous lives.

We intend to reintegrate our women as full partners into every facet of our society, polity and economy. We will invest in the education of our children, particularly our girls. We intend to build a health delivery system that will offer affordable and effective health-care services to all. We will rebuild and modernize our agricultural sector and rehabilitate and expand our communication system. In short, we will make every effort to lay the foundation for an economy and polity that will lead us to self-reliance.

Our country became an exporter of narcotics and a haven for drug traffickers and terrorists. We are committed to taking vigorous action to contain and eliminate the cultivation of poppy. We have issued a decree imposing a complete ban on the cultivation of poppy. We look forward to the cooperation of the international community to help us design and implement a comprehensive strategy for dealing with this serious problem. We fully intend to expand the removal of mines — a sad legacy of the continued warfare — from our land.

Some 5 million of our people live as refugees. We look forward to the repatriation of our citizens. We hope, however, that our neighbours will assist us in designing and implementing programmes for the orderly and gradual return of our refugees. We will also address vigorously the plight of internally displaced Afghans.

We extend the hand of friendship to all of our neighbours. We are not prisoners of the past, but are interested in living peacefully with our neighbours in an atmosphere of mutual respect, based on the principles of sovereignty and self-determination, with an emphasis on open trade and regional economic cooperation.

Let me conclude by expressing our sincere thanks to the United Nations as an institution; the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan; his Special Representative, Lakhdar Brahimi; and the members of the Security Council for their invaluable help. We count on the international community to give us the necessary help as we proceed towards a democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. On our part, we are committed to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us. Together, I am sure we will fulfil the dreams of the Afghan nation, which has been immensely brutalized by the devastation of a protracted war and neglect.

Before I conclude, let me thank Mrs. Ogata and the Government of Japan.

The President: I thank Mr. Karzai for his kind words expressed to this institution.

I shall now make a statement on behalf of the members of the Council.

On behalf of the members of the Council, let me extend once again a warm welcome to the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority, Mr. Hamid Karzai, and his delegation to the Security Council. We thank you for your statement on the situation in your country.

At the very outset, allow me to assure you of the Council's unqualified and unreserved support for your quest for peace, justice and stability in Afghanistan. The Council remains committed to helping advance this process, which is on the right track. We stand

ready to extend the necessary assistance to the people of Afghanistan, who have suffered virtually every privation known to mankind and who deserve a better future.

The Security Council reaffirms its wholehearted commitment to supporting the Interim Authority and the transitional process. In that light, we welcome the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in Tokyo and the efforts of the Afghan Support Group, as well as bilateral donors, as they are vital and integral to assisting the Interim Authority. Council members emphasize that rapid disbursement of assistance and good coordination in its delivery, in full cooperation with the Interim Authority, are essential.

The Security Council expresses its concern about the episodes of lawlessness in Afghanistan. It commends the efforts of those States contributing to the International Security Assistance Force and welcomes the progress the International Security Assistance Force is making in assisting in the restoration of security in Kabul and its surrounding areas. We emphasize that the United Nations and non-governmental relief operations must be allowed to operate in security and with full freedom of movement, particularly in those areas most in need of humanitarian assistance.

In all its decisions, the Security Council has stressed the point that it is for the people of Afghanistan themselves to freely determine their own future. The Security Council will continue to support all efforts based on the Bonn Agreement, leading to the formation of a Government in Afghanistan that should be broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative of all the Afghan people and committed to peace with its neighbours. It is essential for the Afghan Interim Authority and for a new Government of Afghanistan to fully respect the basic human rights of all Afghan people, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion.

There is still a lot to do to assist the Afghan people in what appears to be one of the most challenging and imposing tasks of our time. For real success to be achieved in the Afghan political stabilization, we believe that the following two issues, among others, need urgent attention.

First, the reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation process should not be derailed by any outside pressure or intervention. Here we appeal to the international community to continue extending its valuable support to the Afghan Interim Authority in order to take the country away from the legacy of war, misery and instability.

Secondly, it is high time that leaders and representatives of different ethnic groups within Afghanistan forwent their differences and invested in the construction of a nation with sound democratic credentials.

The members of the Security Council take good note of the decree banning the cultivation, production, processing, abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, which was issued on 17 January under your signature, Sir. Likewise, we welcome the decree on the rights of women. Such bold steps prove that the Interim Authority is resolute in its objective of reinstating peace and stability in Afghanistan as well as creating the conditions for Afghans to lead a normal life. We also welcome the appointment of women to key positions in the new administration, including in the Cabinet. Council members recognize that the success of the Bonn Agreement will depend on the people of Afghanistan themselves.

The Security Council welcomes the central role played by the United Nations in assisting Afghanistan and expresses its full support for the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, in the accomplishment of his mandate.

It would be remiss on our part not to mention the significant contribution made by the humanitarian agencies and their staff, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and all the non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan. The Security Council underscores the importance of ensuring their security.

Finally, Sir, on behalf of the members, I appeal to all Afghans and to the United Nations Member States to build on the momentum created through your efforts and those of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, so that the institutions and mechanisms put in place by the Interim Authority could operate smoothly towards a better future for the Afghan people.

There are no further speakers left on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 9.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4462

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4462nd meeting

Wednesday, 30 January 2002, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Gayan	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	Colombia	Mr. Franco
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Ms. O'Donnell
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2002/80 and Corr.1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-23533 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2002/80 and Corr.1)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Bangladesh, Brazil, Fiji, Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Spain, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Mr. Naidu (Fiji), Mr. Satoh (Japan), Mr. Widodo (Indonesia), Mr. MacKay (New Zealand), Mr. Manalo (Philippines), Mr. Seixas da Costa (Portugal), Mr. Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Arias (Spain) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council decides to extend an invitation under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

There being no objection it is so decided.

His Excellency Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Transitional Administrator for East Timor.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Ramos-Horta to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them documents S/2002/80 and Corr.1, which contain the progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor.

The Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Vieira de Mello at this meeting. I understand that he is also prepared to answer questions and provide clarifications if need be.

Mr. Vieira de Mello: It is an honour to report to the Council under your presidency this morning, Sir.

It is a pleasure to sit before the Council and the Prime Minister, together with my friend and colleague, José Ramos-Horta, to provide a briefing on the situation in East Timor as its transition to independence rapidly — indeed, it is now only 110 days away — comes to pass.

With the approach of independence comes the end of a quite remarkable chapter in the history of the United Nations, one marked by an extraordinary collaborative effort. That effort reflected is here, and for this I must thank the Permanent Representative of

Mauritius and yourself, Mr. Minister, for the Council's decision to devote so much attention today to the situation in East Timor. The presence here today also of Prime Minister John Howard of Australia is yet a further sign of the depth of support enjoyed by East Timor.

On 20 May — independence day — East Timor's dogged and inspiring quest for self-determination will have been completed. Our happiness, however, should be and is tempered by the reality that independence does not mark the end of East Timor's struggles. Far from it. As members know, the Constituent Assembly began its work in September 2001. Today, after 20 weeks of active participation and intense debate, the Assembly has achieved a mammoth task by reviewing and approving most of the draft constitution.

Just before I left for New York I was invited to an exchange of views with the Constituent Assembly. I briefed them on the debate that we will have here today, and on our hopes for its outcome — hopes that I shall go into in some detail in just a moment. It will not surprise the Council to hear that they raised with me their concerns over border security, the future of serious crimes prosecution, the ongoing downsizing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and our plans for a successor mission. I also approved the Constituent Assembly's request for a further extension of its mandate until 9 March. I wholeheartedly encouraged, welcomed and accepted that suggestion. It is in East Timor's best interest that the members of the Constituent Assembly be given time to absorb the various internal and external submissions they have received from different sources. The additional time will also allow the members of the Assembly to undertake a more effective public consultation process.

Although the draft constitution is nearing completion, the transfer of power from the United Nations to the East Timorese people requires one final institutional development: the election of the President. On 14 April the people of East Timor will elect their first President in a free and fair election with universal suffrage, in a secret ballot, and on the basis of a single national constituency. This time, the Timorese will be playing a dominant role in implementing the elections. There will be five electoral commissioners, three of them East Timorese and two of them international. East Timorese will head and staff all 13 district electoral offices, assisted by international electoral officers in logistics and other supervisory capacities. A few days ago I issued invitations for international observers to be present throughout the electoral process.

On 17 April the results will be announced, and East Timor's new President will be inaugurated just after midnight on 20 May.

On the international front, foundations continue to be laid for strong relations between East Timor and Indonesia. As mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, last November for the first time we hosted a meeting of the Joint Border Committee, the third time that body had met. I am sure that my colleague José Ramos-Horta will give the Council more details on that process.

Towards the end of February, Indonesia and East Timor will also be holding high-level talks at Denpasar, to be immediately followed by trilateral talks when East Timor's other immediate neighbour, Australia, joins the table. The meeting will review progress made on all bilateral issues that have been the subject of negotiations between UNTAET and the East Timorese leadership on the one hand and the Government of Indonesia on the other over the past two years, and some new issues, such as maritime delimitation, will be discussed. We also hope to sign a number of arrangements strengthening cooperation between Indonesia and East Timor in areas such as postal services and police cooperation. The trilateral talks will likely discuss regional cooperation, including the possible establishment of a South-West Pacific forum, and regional security arrangements, economic cooperation and development matters.

In addition, East Timor has also been invited to participate in a ministerial-level regional conference, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime; that conference will involve ministers from up to 40 countries in the region.

Key among the outstanding bilateral issues requiring resolution at the Denpasar talks is the need to normalize the land border between East Timor and West Timor. We have already taken the first steps towards delimitation of the border. A joint work plan has been agreed upon, and the first joint reconnaissance survey will be undertaken next month. We are also working towards finalizing an arrangement that will permit movement of people across the border

for customary and traditional purposes and for trade at markets in the vicinity of the border.

I am happy to report that the security situation in East Timor remains stable. The border with Indonesia continues to be secure. There have been few sightings of militia along the Tactical Coordination Line, although unregulated markets are increasingly a problem. Crime rates in East Timor are not increasing, and the East Timor Police Service is growing into its duties admirably. Nonetheless, hard-line militia elements may still pose a long-term threat and, until there is substantial progress in the establishment of an operational East Timor Defence Force, the presence of an appropriate military component will be necessary. Likewise, until the national police force is fully deployed, United Nations civilian police will need to remain in East Timor to assist in training and in actual enforcement.

Long-term peace and stability will depend on the degree to which we can overcome the legacy of the September 1999 violence through progress on the return of the remaining refugees, by fostering and facilitating reconciliation and by the effective prosecution of serious crimes. Those efforts should be viewed as interdependent.

In a boost to the reconciliation process, on 21 January I swore into office the seven National Commissioners of the Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. That was a major achievement — and an arduous one, coming some 18 months after the selection process began. As members know, the Commission has three main functions: to seek the truth about human rights violations in East Timor perpetrated between April 1974 and October 1999; secondly, to facilitate community reconciliation; and thirdly, to report to the Government on its work. It is not a substitute for justice, as serious crimes must continue to be dealt with by the courts. Rather, it will complement that process and avoid unduly burdening a strained court system by dealing with lesser offences through a community reconciliation process. In the coming weeks the Commissioners will need to appoint regional commissioners and their own senior staff. Securing further donor support will also be critical to the ability of the Commission to function as intended.

The sensitive task of reconciliation between East Timorese on both sides of the border is progressing through a unified reconciliation team on behalf of the second transitional Government, with the full backing of Chief Minister Mari Alkatiri, of Xanana Gusmão, and of my own office. This important process was led, until recently, by my former chief of staff, who has now been replaced by the head of our Political Unit.

The justice system is still in a nascent state and needs continued close attention. I know only too well that this is an area in which we have faced particularly significant problems, to an understandable extent since there was nothing — nothing — left of a justice system or its infrastructure in September 1999. Today, there are only 25 East Timorese judges and 13 prosecutors, the majority of whom have had only secondary education and less than two years of training and experience. On occasion, inappropriate sentences have been handed down, leading to retrials. Cases of intimidation during trials have occurred, in one instance resulting in the closure of the Baucau courthouse. The lack of resources, including interpreters and court staff, has led to delayed hearings and unduly prolonged detention of suspects.

Members of the Council themselves identified shortcomings in the administration of justice in East Timor, particularly in the area of the prosecution of serious crimes, in their report of November 2000 following the Council's mission to East Timor (S/2000/1105). In line with our overall strategy, day-to-day management of justice has been devolved onto the Government. Nonetheless, I still bear ultimate responsibility for the administration of justice under the UNTAET mandate. I have made and am making a concerted effort to ensure that UNTAET cooperates closely with the public administration to address the problems faced within this sector and to ensure that by independence we will be able to leave behind strong institutions within the justice sector; these will be critical for the stability of the new country.

To establish a balanced approach ensuring equality between prosecution and defence, as well as appropriate capacity for the courts to adjudicate, we are looking particularly at the establishment of a legal aid service, as well as at support for court administration. I have proposed a set of immediate action points that support both the Special Panels for Serious Crimes and court administration more generally. They include immediate recruitment of international judges, recruitment of a Special Panels administrative coordinator and a judges' associate for the national judges, as well as enhancement of the capacity of the

courts for simultaneous translation. We are proposing a plan for the mobilization of external resources, which will support the courts, particularly in the areas of transcription services and equipment, witness expenses, Internet access and library and research materials. An action plan is to be developed to ensure a coordinated approach to court listing, prison liaison, the publication of court documents and resource mobilization.

I have also endorsed a plan to ensure the establishment of a legal aid service. This has been outstanding for too long and is particularly important in the view of the current resource disparity between the prosecution service and the office of the public defenders. The establishment of the service will allow for the creation of an independent statutory body, which, although funded through appropriations from the East Timor Public Administration, will also be able to receive independent funding, human resource support and other types of support.

Considerable improvements have been made in the area of serious crimes prosecution in terms of management of human and other resources. The Office of the General Prosecutor, now headed by an East Timorese prosecutor, is supported by an East Timorese Deputy Prosecutor for Ordinary Crimes and a new international Deputy Prosecutor for Serious Crimes. The selection and management of staffing and resources provided to the Serious Crimes Unit has been enhanced in order to meet key goals for 2002 and, as of this month, teams of investigators are being based in several districts to promote greater efficiency and to create a closer relationship with the communities in which the investigations are undertaken. It is anticipated that, over the course of 2002, these changes should permit an increase in the number of indictments over and above the 10 priority cases of crimes against humanity. These tasks can be accomplished only with the full funding of approved positions from the assessed budget, as well as continued support from donors for additional specialized expertise and resources in such areas as forensic and investigation experts, translators and transport.

In October 2001 my deputy met with the newly appointed Attorney-General of Indonesia. At that meeting it was agreed that regular monthly meetings on justice should be held with a view to maintaining a dialogue on issues of mutual concern. Following that visit the new East Timorese General Prosecutor paid a courtesy call on the Attorney-General of Indonesia, in November. The first of the monthly meetings was finally held in Denpasar in mid-January.

I very much welcome President Megawati's selection of 18 judges for the Ad Hoc Human Rights Court. We are now keen to see the judges and prosecutors sworn in, court staff recruited and a date set for the commencement of the trials of the first group of suspects, who were publicly identified in early September 2000 by the then Attorney-General of Indonesia, Marzuki Darusman. This is all the more important given that it is now well over two years since the destruction of 1999.

The recent Supreme Court decision in Jakarta to increase, to between five and seven years, the sentences of three of the men convicted of murdering our colleagues from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Atambua in September 2000 is a welcome move, going some way towards demonstrating, in Indonesia, as in the rest of the world, the opprobrium felt over those foul acts.

Finally, progress has been reached in cooperation on investigations into the killing of Private Manning of New Zealand, with several accused now standing trial in Jakarta for his murder. A similar model of cooperation has been agreed on for the investigation into the killing of Private Devi Ram Jaisi of Nepal.

Real momentum on cooperation with Indonesia in the area of serious crimes remains elusive, however. It is of the utmost concern that we have been unable to ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding on legal, judicial and human rights related matters, which I signed with the Attorney-General of Indonesia in April 2000, becomes fully operational.

In the remaining four months before independence, UNTAET, together with the Prosecutor-General's Office, will continue to meet with the Indonesian authorities to push for further progress on serious crimes; these working-level meetings must become a reality and take place on a regular basis. For the people of East Timor, peace and reconciliation efforts will mean little if the principal perpetrators of atrocities committed in 1999 are not brought to justice.

Finally, I should say that we welcomed the visit to East Timor and Indonesia of Ambassador Leandro Despouy, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, who was effectively able to refocus the

spotlight onto the outstanding need for justice in the area of serious crimes, whether that justice is to be served in Dili or Jakarta. I hope that his efforts help us attain concrete results.

Moving to the question of refugees, returns increased during this reporting period, reaching a total of some 192,000. This still leaves perhaps up to 60,000 refugees in West Timor. We will redouble our efforts, in partnership with the second transitional government and UNHCR, together with the civil and military authorities in Indonesia, to encourage as many of the remaining refugees to return to East Timor before independence. Cross-border visits, such as the highly successful visit of Xanana Gusmão to West Timor last November, appear to be one of the most effective ways of countering misinformation and fostering reconciliation and repatriation. At the same time, we have increased our efforts to provide clear, objective information to refugees on the newly established reconciliation commission. As for those responsible for past criminal acts, we will ensure that they will be treated fairly within the developing justice system of East Timor.

While security and militia intimidation continue to be factors inhibiting refugee returns, economic factors, including lack of shelter and access to pensions, are also significant deterrents. I have been looking into ways to improve the shelter for returnees, and I would like to highlight here that more resources are needed to improve this aspect of life for the East Timorese and for returning refugees, particularly during the current rainy season.

It is also important that the arrangements entered into between East Timor and Indonesia on pensions and termination payments to former East Timorese employees of the Government of Indonesia begin to bear fruit. Just before I left Dili, we handed a further 20,000 registration forms to the Indonesian authorities, and I am hopeful that the first pension and termination payments in East Timor will be made in March 2002.

Those former Indonesian government employees and pensioners who opt for East Timorese citizenship will, however, stop receiving their benefits at independence. That is why a special fund is being established to offset those lost pensions. The special fund was launched in Jakarta on 27 November 2001 as part of the Joint Appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Indonesia. I would like to thank the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal, as well as the European Community, which have pledged about $4.5 million for the fund thus far. The fund will, however, require substantially more capital if we hope to generate meaningful benefits for its 30,000 intended beneficiaries. It will prove difficult to encourage the 9,000 remaining former government employees and pensioners to return to East Timor, together with their families, without this alternative. Support for the special fund is thus another key priority over the next 60 days.

In December, a major breakthrough was reached between East Timor and UNTAET officials, led by Chief Minister Alkatiri, with industry currently developing a major petroleum field in the Timor Sea. A tax and fiscal package was agreed and will maximize petroleum revenues to East Timor by allowing gas development in the Timor Sea to go forward. This development will proceed under the terms of the treaty negotiated last year with Australia, which will enter into force upon East Timor's independence.

Overall revenues to East Timor from the combined gas and liquids phases of Bayu-Undan — the field under development — will be much larger than previously forecast. However, revenues from this field in the first few years may not be as high as initially predicted because of the revised fiscal terms and also because production is now more conservatively estimated.

I should now like to turn to the successor mission, a subject that continues to occupy much time within UNTAET and the Second Transitional Government. Our unprecedented advance planning has resulted in a framework for the successor mission, which is attached to the report of the Secretary-General. In this simple proposal, the Secretary-General delimits the scope of action for the future peace operation, and, maybe more importantly, bases its scope on the needs articulated by the future host Government and current UNTAET managers. In other words, it is a consensus document on which all parties at the operational level are in agreement. The hope is that such an exercise allows for a better synergy and sense of a common goal in the successor mission. I am confident that this is being achieved, and I commend it to the Council for its consideration and approval.

Briefly, let me summarize the main contents of the framework. First and foremost, the mission will be

guided by the principle identified in the Council's presidential statement of 31 October last, namely, to ensure that all operational responsibilities are fully devolved to the East Timorese authorities as soon as this is feasible without jeopardizing stability and progress made. The mission is expected to achieve its core mandate in around two years from independence, provided the fundamental conditions for implementation continue to prevail.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate here an important observation in the Secretary-General's report: that funding of the East Timor Police Service and the East Timor Defence Force will be essential to the achievement of the core mandate. As members know, both are highly under-resourced and will require bilateral and other voluntary assistance to be able to function effectively.

The civilian activities of the mission will focus on providing international civilian assistance for core functions in public administration. As members know, the civilian experts would provide crucial support to the emergent East Timorese Administration. The concept for this was extensively discussed at the last Council meeting. Other civilian activities will include providing assistance in serious crimes investigations, as well as human rights mainstreaming.

On the police side, as I understand it, there is no precedent for nationwide United Nations executive policing responsibility in an independent State. In short, overall command of the East Timorese police, together with the United Nations civilian police (CIVPOL), will rest with the international police Commissioner. It has been clearly agreed, at a meeting that I attended with Chief Minister Alkatiri just before coming to New York, that once a unit is handed over to an East Timorese officer, he or she will continue to report up a single chain of command that, as I said, will be led by the United Nations civilian police.

We — the Government and UNTAET both — believe this is absolutely essential to ensure coordination of police response in the field. During this period, shadowing the international police Commissioner will be the East Timorese Commissioner-in-training, whom I appointed in October last year. We are working together with the Government to ensure that on independence the Government concludes with the United Nations an agreement which will addresses the role of the police component and its relationship with the new East Timorese police force.

CIVPOL activities in the future mission will focus on finishing the job of developing the East Timorese police, which will be at a little more than half its target strength on the day of independence. The East Timor Police Service is expected to reach full capacity by January 2004. A gradual handover of individual police activities to the national units and districts, under unified command, will begin in May this year and likely end in January 2004. The handover will be contingent upon a positive assessment of personnel and institutional realities, and we are currently identifying the specific criteria for appropriate United Nations certification and accreditation.

Subject to the timely achievement of certification, CIVPOL will start with a force of 1,250 at independence and be reduced by an average of 5 per cent every month, leaving about 100 officers by January 2004 working in a purely advisory role. As CIVPOL reduces its size, it will be increasingly important for police-contributing nations to provide senior police officers with capacity-building and advisory skills. This will be absolutely critical to the success of this component of the successor mission.

On the military side, the mission will continue providing support for external security and territorial integrity, initially with a force of 5,000. Once the border areas are delimited and national border-control structures are in place, the size of the military component will be reduced, subject, needless to say, to the overriding caveat of prevailing security conditions.

Furthermore, it will be vital for the mission to ensure timely handover of responsibilities from the military component to the East Timor Defence Force and relevant Public Administration departments. As with the police, UNTAET is working together with the Public Administration of East Timor to ensure that immediately upon independence a formal understanding is in place to address clearly and unambiguously the role of the United Nations military and its relationship with the East Timor Defence Force.

The Secretary-General has recommended that, before wrapping up UNTAET, our mandate be extended until the date of independence, on 20 May. This would allow UNTAET to make the necessary preparations for the presidential elections and events leading up to independence day, as well as going some

way to completing the priority tasks that I have just outlined. I very much hope that you concur and make such a decision in the coming 48 hours.

Nonetheless, we are continuing — and determinedly so — with a simultaneous wind-down of the mission to ensure we minimize trauma caused by the end of UNTAET and the commencement of a smaller, more limited mission. I am confident that we will meet the Secretary-General's commitment to a 75 per cent cut of international personnel in the Public Administration by the end of our mandate. Following a reduction of 35 per cent by November last year, we will be reducing our staff by an additional 10 per cent each month over four months starting tomorrow, 31 January — when 140 international staff members will be leaving the mission — and continuing through the end of April. This will ensure that our 75 per cent reduction is achieved, leaving around 200 international staff and 50 United Nations Volunteers in government at the end of the mandate.

This downsizing process has been particularly difficult, as the government bodies and ministries are in dire need of international staff everywhere. Indeed, I believe it was the Council's support, in principle, for a continued post-independence provision of critical assistance to the East Timorese Government that encouraged the ministries to make these difficult cuts, these extremely difficult choices. As you know, the resultant list of 100 posts falls within the areas of finance and central services, justice, internal systems and essential services.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNTAET, together with the Government, have also agreed on job descriptions and specifications for the posts, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has prepared the United Nations vacancy announcements, which can now be viewed on the United Nations web site.

In addition, a recruitment process for the 100 functions is being designed. It is our goal to have experts arrive in theatre early enough to overlap with their international predecessors, unless current incumbents are selected. In this context, I appeal for continued support by the Council to ensure timely action and an early mandate of the successor mission, since this would allow our collective early planning and preparations to bear fruit.

The East Timorese Government will also require international assistance in support of social and economic development and poverty-reduction programmes. The ongoing UNDP study has identified some 200 such functions as crucial for that purpose, and voluntary arrangements are being sought to meet these requirements. Members of the Constituent Assembly are rightly anxious to ensure that the development of East Timor's health and education sectors, in particular, continues beyond independence, and it is through these positions that we will be able to help assuage these concerns.

To ensure the division of responsibility among principal players who will assist East Timor in these areas, I have been consulting with the United Nations agencies and other entities, seeking their support in principle to help fill the 200 civilian technical assistance posts. These will also be circulated to Member States.

We have also been reducing the number of international posts outside the Public Administration. Starting with my own extended office — which includes public information, legal affairs, political affairs, human rights and others — the reduction will be in monthly tranches, resulting in an overall reduction of 40 per cent by the end of April. Similarly, our division of the UNTAET administration is cutting back by 40 per cent.

Another element that is key to a smooth transition is the incorporation within the Government of essential common services and the transfer of United Nations assets to the East Timorese Government in support of those services. A preliminary list of assets for potential disposal has undergone a financial-sustainability review, and the final list of desired assets will be presented to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions next month for its consideration.

Finally, in the home stretch to independence, the Government and I have asked for East Timor to be deleted from the list of non-self-governing territories. I expect the Government immediately to seek membership in the United Nations. This territory, which was an orphan of the United Nations, will then become a full-grown member of our family.

As we approach the conclusion of this remarkable exercise, I, on behalf of the East Timorese Transitional Government and on behalf of José Ramos-Horta, invite

members of the Council to attend the Independence Day celebrations. You visited once before, providing welcome support in a most sombre time. We now very much hope that you can visit in altogether more uplifting circumstances. You will have good reason to be proud.

The President: I thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for his comprehensive briefing.

I wish to welcome the presence at the Council table of Ms. Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General.

The next speaker on my list is His Excellency Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mr. Howard: I extend my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. I also acknowledge the presence of Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette and also, very particularly, Mr. José Ramos-Horta, with whom my Government and the people of Australia have had a significant association over the past few years.

I understand that this is the first time in some years that an Australian Prime Minister has addressed the Security Council, and I think it is appropriate that the address takes place in the context of a debate on the future of East Timor.

Australia was a founder Member of the United Nations, and, in fact, provided the first President of the Security Council. We continue to very strongly support the relevant role of the Security Council in the modern world. Its contribution to the emphatic response of the world to the outrageous terrorist attacks in this city last year is current evidence of that relevance, as indeed is illustrated again by the debate today on Afghanistan. Australia has been a strong supporter of the world's response to those terrorist attacks, and we were one of the very first nations to send military forces to assist the United States efforts within Afghanistan.

We strongly support the work done in the United Nations to ensure there is a broad international front against terrorism. It is critical that this international cooperation be one of action as well as words. This is what Australia will look to the Council for in implementing its resolutions.

I want to thank Sergio Vieira de Mello for his report in the name of the Secretary-General in relation to the renewal of the mandate for East Timor until independence. I take this opportunity to record Australia's admiration for his stewardship over the last two and a half years. It has been an example of United Nations work in difficult circumstances at its very best. I also join others in saying how much we look forward to East Timor assuming its independence in 110 days' time. I shall be delighted, myself, to represent Australia at the independence celebrations from 18 to 20 May.

East Timor has been a prime example of the Security Council's capacity to respond promptly and decisively to pressing issues. The mandate that enabled the deployment of the International Force in East Timor laid the foundation for a successful and effective long-term resolution to a difficult and chronic problem. Australia is indeed honoured to have played such a key role in that success.

Two years ago the Security Council entrusted the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) with a major and unprecedented task. The success of UNTAET is manifest in East Timor's rapid move toward independence. I pay tribute not only to Sergio Vieira de Mello's own leadership, but also to his UNTAET team, including the members of the peacekeeping operation, the United Nations civilian police, East Timorese members of the Transitional Government and Secretariat officials here in New York.

The renewal of the UNTAET mandate prefaces a new phase of United Nations involvement in East Timor. The Security Council must now give priority to preparation and planning for the post-independence United Nations mission. Decisions taken by this Council in the coming months will have a crucial bearing on the long-term success of East Timor. We cannot rest on the successes — great though they are — over the past two years, for without continued support, they cannot be sustained.

East Timor remains a small, fragile country. A start to reconstruction has been made, but there is still a long way to go. Australia and other donors are committed to East Timor's long-term sustainable development. But there also needs to be an assurance of solidarity from the United Nations system.

The Council is well aware of the significant contribution Australia has made to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in East Timor through both military and civilian police contingents. Over the

period from July 1999 to June 2001, Australia spent Australian $1.4 billion on its military contribution. We have also committed Australian $150 million for the four years from July 2000 to help with reconstruction and development in East Timor.

I want to inform the Council that Australia will continue to play its part, both through the United Nations and bilaterally, to support East Timor. We are committed to a substantial bilateral assistance programme to reduce poverty and build the capacity of the East Timorese people to govern their country successfully in a peaceful and democratic fashion. In the Timor Sea Arrangement, we have agreed on a generous arrangement for revenue from the Timor Sea gas fields, which will make a big contribution to East Timor's future.

We look forward to working closely and pragmatically with our new neighbours, both on bilateral issues and, as fellow Member States of the United Nations, in regional and global organizations. In this regard, I am pleased that we shall begin trilateral meetings between East Timor, Indonesia and Australia on 26 February, when senior East Timorese representatives will meet with representatives of my Government and the Government of Indonesia in Denpasar. The relationship between those three nations is very important to the future of East Timor and its people.

East Timor will, however, need more than the help and goodwill of its nearest neighbours. A seamless transition from United Nations administration to a functioning post-independence Government is vital to success in the long term. We should not by skimping on resources undo the good work already done. It is critical that the United Nations stay the course, and Australia will play a significant part in the staying of that course and leave East Timor well equipped to deal with the challenges of independence. This is the best guarantee of minimizing the country's longer-term reliance on international support.

Australia agrees that the United Nations role in East Timor is not open-ended. The Security Council must set in place an exit strategy that preserves the international community's investment in East Timor's future. That in turn will secure East Timor's capacity to function effectively over the long term.

I conclude by assuring the Council that Australia will continue to play a significant part for so long as that participation is needed. We will work closely with the Council to support United Nations efforts and the new East Timorese Government.

I record again the overwhelming sentiment of the people of Australia in expressing to José Ramos-Horta and through him to the people of East Timor our goodwill for their future. There is concern and sentiment in my country towards the East Timorese people. We wish them well. We look forward to working with Mr. Ramos-Horta as fellow members of the international community and as participants in our part of the world. I again congratulate Sergio Vieira de Mello on his great stewardship, and I thank you, Mr. President, most warmly for the privilege of addressing the Security Council.

The President: I thank Mr. Howard for his important statement and for the continued support of his Government to East Timor.

His Excellency Mr. John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, was escorted from the Security Council Chamber.

The President: I now give the floor to Council members.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I can be relatively brief this morning, not least because the representative of Spain will be speaking later in the debate on behalf of the European Union. But, before starting my statement, I did want to mark the presence with us this morning of Prime Minister Howard of Australia and of the Irish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. I think it was particularly apposite to have Prime Minister Howard with us this morning in view of the enormous contribution that Australia has made in East Timor since the events of two years ago. And I very much welcome the presence of our Irish colleague, which I know symbolizes the tremendous concern and commitment felt by the people of Ireland for the situation in East Timor.

As always, Sergio Vieira de Mello's briefing was a masterpiece of the genre. I am very grateful to him and to his team for giving us such a useful, exhaustive and comprehensive report on what has happened in the territory since we last met. I particularly welcome the progress he was able to report on a number of areas, and I would strongly endorse what he had to say about the criminal and justice systems, the importance of getting this right and the progress that has been made

with the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. It will come as no surprise to Council Members that the United Kingdom remains very concerned about serious crime issues throughout the panoply of the United Nations activities, and East Timor must be no exception in this regard.

On the first part of the work we have before us today, we strongly support the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) should be extended to 20 May. Together with the delegation of Singapore, we have been working on a draft resolution to put that into practice, and I think I can assure Mr. Vieira de Mello that action on this will be taken well before the end of this week. I anticipate no problems whatsoever.

On the next stage of our remit, we welcome very much the outlined proposals for a successor mission for a limited period after independence, as set out in the Secretary-General's report this time, and we look forward to receiving more specific proposals from him as we move towards independence.

For the follow-on mission, we support the recommendation that a number of key civilian positions be funded from assessed contributions for a limited period. These positions will, after all, be crucial to the stability of the new administration. They have already been advertised, and it is important that recruitment takes place in good time to ensure a smooth hand-over of responsibilities at the time of independence. I would add in parentheses that I think the decision taken by the Secretariat to go ahead and advertise these posts in advance of formal approval of the successor mission is admirable and fully in line with the general thrust behind Lakhdar Brahimi's report on peace operations and a real gesture of the will and determination in the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations operations in these sorts of areas can be made to run as smoothly and seamlessly as possible.

On the political front, we very much welcome the announcement of presidential elections, which will take place in April this year. We urge all parties to conduct the election campaign in a peaceful and transparent way. And, in a slightly different part of the political forest, we hope that the extension of the constitutional process to allow broader consultation on a number of proposed amendments to the Constitution will be put to good use. It is very important that the Constitution of the independent East Timor should have the support of all the people of the territory. I hope that it will be possible to take account of all the suggestions that have been made and put forward to an appropriate degree, including those from some of the more minor political parties.

As Prime Minister Howard just said, East Timor will need more than the help and good will of its nearest neighbours. We look forward to the completion of the National Development Plan. This will provide the basis for donors to determine the scope of their future support to an independent East Timor and, not least, will help define disbursement mechanisms. Indications of future support for East Timor will, we understand, be sought at the May Donors Conference. It goes without saying that donors will appreciate the early completion and dissemination of the development plan in order to prepare for that Conference. The more time that can be allowed for preparation, the better the eventual results will be.

I have two other points to make, and then I will finish. First, it is good that refugees have continued to return since the August election, but we remain deeply concerned about the plight of the remaining refugees in West Timor. We understand that there could be up to 80,000 of them. I would like, here and now, to urge the United Nations and the Government of Indonesia to complete the negotiations for the Memorandum of Understanding to enable international agencies to return to East Timor and facilitate the resettlement of the remaining refugees.

Finally, I would like to make it very clear that the United Kingdom remains fully committed to supporting the East Timorese people and the United Nations to create a stable, independent and democratic State. I am happy to be able to say that a Minister from the Foreign Office will attend the independence day celebrations in Dili on 20 May and that the United Kingdom will retain a diplomatic presence in Dili after independence.

Mr. Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). We also welcome Ms. Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General, and Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, to today's important debate.

We also wish to express our satisfaction at the excellent work undertaken by UNTAET in East Timor. Allow us further to convey our thanks and appreciation to Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello and to all the staff of UNTAET for their efforts to implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

We cannot fail to welcome Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor.

Syria has followed the long road taken by the parties concerned towards 20 May 2002 and wishes to express its appreciation for the roles of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the Constituent Assembly through its decision to convene direct presidential elections on 14 April this year. We believe that this is an excellent initiative and a decisive step on the road to East Timor's independence.

We welcome the elements in the report on progress achieved towards independence, particularly concerning constitutional and legislative measures, security conditions, the implementation of policies to encourage economic and social development, the issue of relations with Indonesia, East Timor's closest and historically most important neighbour, and steps taken by both parties to build mutual relations.

We would express our appreciation to the Indonesian Government for its determination to fulfil its commitments and for the measures it has taken to that end. In this regard, we believe that special relations should be fostered between Indonesia and East Timor, focusing on the best possible future for the peoples of both countries.

We are satisfied at the increasing role being played by the Administration in East Timor in governing the daily affairs of that country. We also express our appreciation for the encouraging results achieved by the Administration in economic and social development, particularly in generating income, improving the situation of poverty and unemployment and reforming the country's infrastructure, while stressing the need to focus on the role of women in peace and development in East Timor.

We stress the references in the report to the urgent need for resources to provide the necessary technical support for the development of the judiciary and the Police Service, as well as to international security assistance, which has a crucial role to play in promoting stability locally and regionally. We welcome the accelerated return of refugees despite misinformation and propaganda campaigns and hope that all obstacles in the way of the return of those refugees will be eliminated.

We fully understand that the future of East Timor can be guaranteed only by full reconciliation among all Timorese. We believe that this is crucial to the stability of the country. We also believe that development can be achieved in East Timor through such national reconciliation. The United Nations experience in East Timor is a success story by any standards and we hope that all the aforementioned efforts will be crowned with success and ensure the best possible future for the people of that country.

We support the recommendations in the report on extending UNTAET's mandate until the date of independence on 20 May 2002 and on the successor mission and its mandate to support the Administration in the post-independence period. We also wish to express our support for the independence of East Timor. We wish the people of that emerging country every success in the future.

Ms. O'Donnell (Ireland): I thank you, Sir, for calling this open meeting today. I would like to welcome our guests, Mr. Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor, and Mr. Vieira de Mello, the Secretary-General's Special Representative. I am very pleased that the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Howard, has addressed this meeting. His presence and his important and committed intervention this morning demonstrate the continuing significance of international engagement on East Timor, both for the country itself and for wider regional reasons. Australia has played a critical role in assuring the security that has facilitated the transition of East Timor to independence.

Ireland associates itself fully with the statement which will be delivered shortly by the representative of Spain on behalf of the European Union.

This is the final time that the Security Council will be asked to extend the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). The next time the Council takes action on East Timor, it will be to decide on the successor United Nations mission to work with the Government of an

independent East Timor. What a heart-warming thought that is for all of us.

On this occasion, the Secretary-General has recommended that the Council extend the mandate of UNTAET until 20 May. Ireland is happy to support this recommendation and we look forward to the Secretary-General's proposals for the important United Nations post-independence presence. Ireland, of course, will be represented in East Timor on 20 May. It will be a day of great celebration and happiness indeed in Ireland.

We are watching in great admiration as the people of East Timor progress towards independence. The latest report of the Secretary-General on UNTAET gives a clear sense of the real advances being made. The setting of a date for the presidential election, the establishment of an independence day and the solid work of the Constituent Assembly are all welcome signs of a political system that is very quickly finding its feet. The Secretary-General's report on the development of the country's public administration points to important areas where the East Timorese people have assumed ownership, particularly in the education and health sectors. We note, too, that the East Timorese people will also be taking a predominant role in preparing and holding the election that will soon decide the country's first President.

A further development which Ireland strongly supports is the recent swearing-in of the members of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. We very much hope that the Commission will be able to assist the people of East Timor to achieve accountability through truth-telling and healing through reconciliation. Its work will take many years, but we believe it can be an important part of the effort to forge a more stable future for the country and, in due course, bring closure to the many injustices of the past.

Also of critical importance is the relationship between East Timor and Indonesia. We wish to see both countries working to improve links and to resolve outstanding bilateral issues, including the delineation of the border and cooperation on bringing to justice those responsible for serious crimes.

Today we mark further confident steps away from the traumatic events of September 1999 in East Timor, which followed the people's decision by a large majority to seek their future as an independent nation. The firm conviction of the Security Council at that time; the exceptional work carried out by United Nations personnel over more than two years since; and the bravery, perseverance and well-known resilience of the East Timorese people have brought us to the point where the Secretary-General can convey the positive news contained in his recent report.

That said, Ireland is convinced of the need for a strong United Nations role after independence. Continuing United Nations involvement is contributing importantly to the incremental advances being made in East Timor, and we believe this involvement must be maintained. We are very conscious that, because of the terrible circumstances that arose following the popular consultation of August 1999, the institutions of State are being constructed from the very foundations up. This presents enormous challenges and opportunities for the people after independence — challenges and opportunities which the international community, including the United Nations, must assist them in facing.

The Secretary-General has highlighted those priority areas where the East Timorese Government will require support and guidance until mid-2004. The creation of a critical mass of indigenous administrative, military and policing expertise will require further support from the international community.

We are especially mindful of the size of the task involved in building national defence and police forces — all the more so for a new, small, developing State which so recently suffered such violent confrontations. We note the headway being made in relation to the East Timor Defence Force and Police Service, and we commend it, although we have to expect this to be a gradual and incremental process.

We welcome also the fact that the Secretary-General's approach to future United Nations involvement in East Timor remains consistent with the strong proposals outlined last October. We agree that this United Nations presence should be a robust one. We also agree that, together with bilateral and other multilateral arrangements, the United Nations can and should play a major role in ensuring that the rewards flowing from the hard work of UNTAET can be maintained and increased for the benefit of the people of East Timor.

Ireland is one of those already involved in a range of development cooperation programmes in East Timor. We have done so since 1999, and last year we

opened a representative office in Dili. Our experience there has shown us that bilateral aid is crucial to the future development of East Timor.

East Timor has already been identified by Ireland's development aid programme as a priority for reconstruction and rehabilitation. Ireland Aid, which has opened our office in Dili, is implementing an initial country strategy designed to support the transition to democracy and general rehabilitation activity in East Timor. The field experience that is being acquired through the implementation of this strategy will provide the basis for the development of a full country programme in due course.

Our experience on the ground has also shown us that the unique dimension of the engagement of the United Nations in the administrative and security tasks is also still required. The Organization will have a vital role in maintaining progress in East Timor towards an effective Government and full independence for the first time after four centuries of external rule.

In a matter of months, the Security Council will consider the application of East Timor for membership in the United Nations. The Council will, during the coming period, have a unique opportunity to shape positively the future of this new Member, in full collaboration with its citizens. Ireland will do its level best to ensure that after 20 May, the United Nations presence is one that best suits the requirements of the Government and people of East Timor. That is, we believe, the best way to consolidate the progress that the Organization and the people of East Timor have built together.

Mr. Williamson (United States of America): I would like to thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for his good work and for his report this morning.

The briefing heard this morning illustrates yet again that East Timor is on the right track. I take advantage of the presence of Cabinet Minister Ramos-Horta to ask him to convey to the members of the Constituent Assembly our commendations for the progress they have achieved thus far in moving through the difficult process of drafting a first constitution. At the same time, I would urge them, all East Timorese involved in the political process, and the United Nations to stay on track for the elections in April and independence on 20 May.

The United States supports a rollover of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) through May, as proposed in the draft resolution we expect to approve tomorrow. In April, once United Nations planning and East Timor's political developments become clearer, the Council should begin work on a resolution establishing the post-independence role of the United Nations, already foreshadowed in the presidential statement we adopted in October 2001.

I would like to reaffirm the support of the United States for the successor mission concept, as discussed in October and fleshed out more extensively in the most recent report. At the same time, I would like to stress that neither UNTAET nor a successor United Nations mission can eliminate all the challenges that face an independent East Timor, as with those that any developing nation will face in meeting the needs of its citizens and achieving economic prosperity.

United Nations peacekeeping is not a substitute for, or a short cut around, the long-term development process. In his most recent report, the Secretary-General speaks of independence day, 20 May, as a new starting point from which the international community and an independent East Timor will need to forge a new kind of partnership. We look forward to East Timor's moving into normal relationships with the international community and assuming responsibility for its own affairs, within the context of a decreasing peacekeeping role and an increasing traditional development framework. To get there, the United Nations and the East Timorese need to work with the widest range of bilateral donors, interested agencies and non-governmental organizations to ensure that other appropriate mechanisms of support are put in place as the extraordinary measures financed through peacekeeping assessments progressively diminish within the next two years.

The United Nations must help this process by staying on schedule with the downsizing it has set for itself between now and independence, and I laud Mr. Vieira de Mello for doing that so well. The Organization must do so by carefully planning to move from the independence day successor mission numbers to a goal of zero peacekeeping finance support by mid-2004.

We welcome ongoing efforts to reduce UNTAET's military force level to 5,000 by May, and

we support plans to downsize the United Nations civilian police (CIVPOL), keeping the focus on executive policing and the increasingly important work of training the East Timor Police Service. The progress made with the East Timor Police Service and Defence Force is an example of how to move East Timor towards self-reliance, transferring operational responsibilities to East Timorese authorities as quickly as possible.

The United States pledges to continue its bilateral support for East Timor, as well as its support within the United Nations context. We also look forward to working with an independent East Timor to help develop the entrepreneurial and commercial activities that will be crucial to its prosperity. And we look forward to independence, not because of some celebration, as there is too much work ahead to celebrate too long, but because East Timor's progress is truly historic.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): Before I begin my prepared text, I would like to make a few preliminary observations.

We began our discussions this morning in this Chamber with a very important meeting with Mr. Karzai, the head of the Interim Authority in Afghanistan. It is no secret that the United Nations faces formidable challenges in Afghanistan, and none of us knows what the results will be like. I mention this because, if indeed we do succeed in East Timor after having faced many serious challenges two years ago, this success in one corner of Asia — the south-eastern corner — will have, we hope, a ripple effect and also contribute to the success of another, probably even more challenging, assignment — the one that we are taking on in Afghanistan.

We also want to join our colleagues, of course, in paying tribute to Australia for the contribution it has made to East Timor, and we certainly welcome the important speech that was made by its Prime Minister when he addressed us this morning.

We also welcome the presence of Ms. Liz O'Donnell, Minister of State of Ireland, particularly because Ireland's contributions to East Timor have also been exemplary.

We would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his excellent report. It is both comprehensive and detailed, and it makes a strong case for the way ahead for the United Nations role in East Timor. We welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and the Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor, José Ramos-Horta, back to the Council. We thank Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello for his briefing, which was, as usual, insightful and useful. We are confident that Mr. Ramos-Horta's briefing will be equally insightful and useful. It might actually be helpful if he could respond to some of the comments made this morning, as part of a dialogue that we should have with the East Timorese in the build-up to independence.

We fully support the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). East Timor today, standing at the threshold of independence, is a very good example of what the United Nations can achieve. Indeed, what the United Nations has accomplished in East Timor is remarkable by any standard. Indeed, it is hard to find a good historical comparison. From scratch, the United Nations has, in less than three years, helped to restore peace and normalcy to a shattered land, nurtured a nascent East Timorese Government and put in place a democratic process that saw the peaceful and successful elections of the country's very first Constituent Assembly. For this we must acknowledge the efforts of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and, of course, of our good friend Sergio Vieira de Mello, as well as those of UNTAET and all of those who have worked tirelessly to bring East Timor to where it is today.

But — and I am glad that the Australian Prime Minister also made this point — it is clear that the United Nations has unfinished business in East Timor. Despite the remarkable progress made since October 1999, there is still much of the United Nations mandate that is left uncompleted. The Secretary-General, in his latest report, stated that

> "the comparative fragility of the political foundations of this new country, its very limited pool of professional and administrative expertise, lack of strong independent security mechanisms and nascent state of economic development mean that East Timor will continue to require significant assistance from the international community well after independence, in order to ensure stability and realize the potential for

progress that has been generated over the past two years". *(S/2002/80, para. 4)*

East Timor's independence, therefore, does not mark the end of the United Nations engagement in East Timor. On the contrary, it signals the beginning of an important new phase of United Nations involvement — one where the United Nations and the international community must make secure the gains achieved for a lasting period.

Of course, it is not anyone's intention that the United Nations should linger on in East Timor for any longer than necessary. We do believe that East Timor needs a good exit strategy. But the United Nations cannot ensure the continued success of its good work in East Timor unless its Members are fully committed to a smooth and successful transition. It is all too easy to succumb to the mistaken persuasion that the United Nations should disengage as rapidly as possible simply because the situation in East Timor now appears to have stabilized. This is an overly simplistic and dangerous view. There are enough examples in recent history to warn us of the dangers of precipitate exits, for instance, Afghanistan — the subject of our first meeting this morning — and Somalia.

Should the situation in East Timor unravel as a result of the United Nations haste to depart, we will again find that the cost of prevention would have been much less than that of the cure. As I had pointed out at our last meeting on this issue, in October 2001, what the United Nations has achieved in East Timor has come about only through hard thinking, shrewd judgement, hard work, dedication and commitment. I wish also to reiterate that we should never take this success for granted, because it is a remarkable — perhaps even exceptional — story. It is therefore the Council's job to continue to make the right decisions in order to ensure that it gets the job in East Timor done right today so that it does not have to return tomorrow.

How the United Nations handles East Timor after independence will have wide-ranging consequences for our region as a whole. East Timor's future and that of our region are inextricably linked. East Timor is, therefore, for us and for others in the region, not just another abstract agenda item but a question of vital and immediate strategic importance. A stable East Timor can contribute to the stability and security of the region and complement the region's efforts to prevail over the political and economic problems it faces. It would be remiss of us to let East Timor run the risk of becoming a failed State. The stakes are too high, both for East Timor and the region. The Council has recognized and affirmed the need for a substantial international presence in East Timor after independence. It must now sustain and build on that momentum to ensure that the United Nations effectively follows through on its commitment to fulfil its responsibilities in East Timor.

The Secretary-General has put forward a set of recommendations for the United Nations successor mission in East Timor, and the Council broadly endorsed those recommendations in an October 2001 presidential statement. With the renewal of UNTAET's mandate — which, as Ambassador Eldon said, the United Kingdom and Singapore have worked on, and which we hope will go through smoothly this week — we now look forward to more specific proposals from the Secretary-General on the follow-on United Nations peacekeeping operation and to a thorough discussion of these proposals in due course.

Finally, I wish to conclude by referring to a small point that came up in the Council's debate on East Timor on 31 October last year — that is, the discussion between France and Singapore on this issue. I am pleased to inform the Council that France and Singapore have had a healthy exchange of views on our respective contributions to East Timor. We have agreed that both countries have contributed significantly to the territory, both in the early days of INTERFET as well as in the period of UNTAET. We also agreed that France and Singapore have a common interest in ensuring that East Timor becomes a true success story of the United Nations. France and Singapore will work closely together to achieve this conclusion.

Mr. Kolby (Norway): First of all, I would like to welcome Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello and Mr. José Ramos-Horta once again to the Council. We are very much impressed by all of the work they have undertaken. It seems to us that, in spite of the challenges, East Timor is on the right track.

We are very encouraged by the continued progress made. The United Nations is getting closer to fulfilling the goals set forth by the Council in its resolution 1272 (1999), and the downsizing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) is on schedule. There is, however, still some way to go, and the continued support of the

international community in fostering long-term security and stability is therefore required.

East Timor is in the process of transforming itself into an independent country. This places significant challenges Before its leadership. During the Oslo donors conference of December 2001, we were encouraged to see the Transitional Government taking the lead in the discussions and clearly displaying ownership of the process. We have confidence in its plans and strategies for the management of an independent East Timor.

The drafting of the constitution is well under way, and we trust that the popular consultation will further contribute to a document establishing a unitary democratic State based on the rule of law and the principle of separation of powers. As far as the April presidential elections are concerned, we are convinced that UNTAET and the East Timorese will ensure that they take place in a transparent and peaceful manner.

As we have repeatedly stated, Norway attaches great importance to the instigation of criminal proceedings against persons responsible for serious crimes. We therefore welcome the first conviction for crimes against humanity delivered by the Special Panel for Serious Crimes last December, which clearly demonstrates that such crimes will not go unpunished.

Another fortunate development is the inauguration of the truth and reconciliation commission earlier this month. As we have witnessed in other post-conflict societies, the search for truth and reconciliation is not a soft option, but a huge challenge. However, this is the only way to freely and genuinely move forward into the future as a united nation. In the light of the financial constraints experienced by both the Special Panel for Serious Crimes and the truth commission, my Government will consider the possibility of providing additional funds for these processes.

We also welcome the recent appointment by the Indonesian Government of the 18 judges to serve on the ad hoc tribunals for serious crimes committed in East Timor during 1999. We expect the trials to commence shortly so that justice for the East Timorese is served in a complete and holistic manner. Allow me to add that we are pleased to note that the bilateral relations between East Timor and Indonesia are improving. This is crucial for the prosperous development and the long-term stability of the region.

In addition to the assistance provided by the United Nations through a successor mission to UNTAET, East Timor will be in need of bilateral development assistance in the crucial years following independence. We are prepared to contribute our share in this regard, and we urge other donors to live up to their commitments as stated during the Oslo donors conference.

We are impressed by the work done by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Transitional Government to develop sustainable fiscal and development strategies for the new nation. These are crucial steps in order to promote a smooth United Nations exit and to foster long-term stability. During the Oslo meeting, the Transitional Government urged donors to provide budgetary support for the years 2002 to 2005. Norway acknowledges the need for such support, and we are confident that the Government will establish the required modalities on the recipient side.

As we have previously stated, Norway supports the Secretary-General's recommendations as to a successor mission with military, civilian and civilian police components, funded by assessed contributions. We look forward to engaging in a more in-depth discussion on the exact mandate and size of the successor mission this spring.

Let me end by once again thanking the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for the excellent work done so far in East Timor. We support the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of UNTAET until 20 May 2002. We also very much look forward to being present at the first donors meeting to be held in Dili, as well as to the celebration of independence on 20 May this year.

Mr. Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I also join in the expressions of appreciation extended to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, particularly for the excellent briefing and report he has given us on East Timor's process of independence and on the participation and presence of the United Nations in that country after 20 May 2002. I also wish to acknowledge and welcome the presence of Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor. My country also appreciates the participation of the Honourable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, in this discussion, and we

welcome the presence of Ms. Liz O'Donnell, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ireland.

We join all those who, at this table and beyond it, have expressed their views in support of maintaining international cooperation to consolidate the peace process that will lead to the emergence of a new independent State, consistent with the will expressed by the people of East Timor. The international community and this Council should be very proud and pleased when East Timor joins the international family as an independent nation next May.

However, we believe that the months prior to the official declaration of independence remain critical for guaranteeing the stability and security of this new State, particularly in the holding of presidential elections next April. Therefore, we believe that the role of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) is fundamental for maintaining the stability of the process and avoiding the emergence of troubles onto the political scene.

Mexico welcomes the progress made by UNTAET to lay the political foundations of a new State. We commend that body's contribution to national reconciliation, the assistance afforded for the creation of operational machinery to bring about a new administration. The rule of law, the administration of justice, respect for human rights, border security, the advancement of the national reconciliation process and the return of refugees in conditions of security and dignity — those are all matters of special importance that will require international support and priority attention from the new Government. This international support, we believe, should continue under the leadership of the United Nations.

The prosperity of the new State will, in great measure, depend on the efficiency, determination and honesty with which justice is administered and with which violence and crime in East Timor are suppressed and punished.

We support the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report (S/2002/80), both with respect to the extension of UNTAET's mandate and to its reconfiguration. We await with great interest the detailed proposals of Secretary-General Kofi Annan for UNTAET's successor mission. We believe that the presence of the United Nations following the independence of East Timor should continue to preserve the three key elements set forth in the Secretary-General's priorities: a military component, a civilian police component and, of course, a civilian component of support for the transition to the new governmental administration. All of this should be done within a time period that will not jeopardize the stability and progress that have been achieved.

We reiterate our support for basing the successor mission on the principle that operational responsibilities should be devolved to the East Timorese authorities as soon as is feasible through an ongoing process of mission assessment and downsizing over a period of two years starting from independence.

Mexico believes that, in addition to taking account of the views of the East Timor authorities, countries that contribute troops to UNTAET should also be consulted during the reconfiguration period before and after independence. To ensure the success of our exit strategy, their opinions must be taken into account with respect both to the drawdown of troops and to the situation on the ground. We hope that those countries will contribute their experience to the training of the East Timor Police Service, with a view to ensuring a more secure environment.

Mexico believes, too, in the need for ongoing, close dialogue between the new East Timor authorities and Indonesia. Progress is needed on resolving pending issues such as border delimitation including maritime boundaries, fighting cross-border crime and establishing a framework of political, economic and educational cooperation that would bolster friendship between the two nations.

In that context, Mexico hails the establishment of an Ad Hoc Human Rights Court in Indonesia to deal with violations that took place in East Timor in 1999. The political will of the President of Indonesia was reflected in her appointment of 18 judges, who will join the 12 recommended by the Indonesian Supreme Court. We hope that the work of the Human Rights Court will progress with the speed warranted by the situation.

As others have said at today's meeting, East Timor provides one of the best examples of the possibility of putting together an integrated strategic partnership to resolve a conflict in keeping with the maintenance of international peace and security and, beyond that, to make possible the orderly birth of a new nation which, we hope, will become a proud, full-fledged Member of the United Nations. The presence

of the United Nations as a prominent actor in the political process that will culminate in the emergence of the new State has been facilitated by the experience and technical capacity of the multilateral system as a whole.

Cooperation between East Timor and the international community must be tightened in order to maintain stability, help remove threats to internal and external security and, above all, promote the economic and social development of East Timor. The efforts of the United Nations system, and its advocacy and coordination with the participation of other States, are essential to promote public and private investment in the economic development of East Timor. This economic and social development and the well-being and prosperity of the citizens of East Timor will be the foundation of the independence and self-determination of East Timor and the source of their viability.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by thanking you for the outstanding way in which you, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, have guided the work of the Council.

The President: I thank the representative of Mexico for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I welcome Mr. José Ramos-Horta and ask him to convey our greetings to the other representatives of the people of a State that we hope will very soon become a Member of the United Nations. My special thanks go to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello not only for his excellent introduction of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/80) but also for the fine work that he and his team have done and are continuing to do in East Timor. Their work is the basis of the success that we are all hailing today.

As an associated State of the European Union, Bulgaria fully supports the statement that the Spanish presidency of the Union will make later today. I should like now to make some very brief comments in my national capacity. First, Bulgaria welcomes the unquestionable success of East Timor for the United Nations and the international community. That country, with its nascent democracy, is on the right path. That is not to minimize the enormous difficulties it will have to confront. Others have spoken of these today: sources of concern include the fragile security situation and the question of the return of refugees.

But my delegation has no doubt that on 20 May a new State and prospective Member of the United Nations will be born. To be sure, the presidential elections set for 14 April will be a moment of truth for this nascent democracy. But 20 May will see the birth of the new State. It is my country's position that United Nations involvement cannot cease on 20 May. The challenges facing East Timor are of such magnitude that we cannot afford to disengage the Organization from that country at such a crucial moment in its history.

Bulgaria believes that the United Nations must deploy the full range of its agencies and its capacities to foster true success in building the new State. In that connection, the proposals of the Secretary-General set out in the annex to his report (S/2002/80) are entirely consistent with our wishes. These, of course, need to be more clearly spelled out before independence.

Accordingly, Bulgaria will give its full support to the draft resolution now being prepared. Here, we thank the delegations of Singapore and of the United Kingdom for their work. We shall vote in favour of extending the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor until 20 May.

Mr. Granovsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The tone of today's discussion has, of course, been set by the most recent report of the Secretary-General on East Timor. We support the basic provisions of the report and its conclusions, including the recommendation to extend the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for a final period, to 20 May 2002.

We agree with the Secretary-General's conclusion that the people of East Timor and the international community have reason to be proud, given everything that they have achieved to date. We commend the work done by UNTAET, carried out under the wise and effective guidance of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello, as well as the progress achieved towards establishing statehood in the territory through independence.

We welcome in particular the successful Timorization of authority in the territory -- in our view, that is the only true path towards building an independent, stable State. On the whole, we believe that the United Nations has played a key role in resolving the crisis in East Timor; now we must

envisage the evolution of the role of the Organization within the international community's post-conflict presence in the new State. In this regard, we fully agree with the approach set out by the representative of the United States of America. We believe that the scale, configuration and time frame for the future international presence should be determined by analysing the real needs of East Timor, as well as the pace of developments in the situation on the island, taking full account of the position of the Government of the country.

We support in principle the idea that the overall duration of the future mission should not exceed two years. We are convinced that in helping to establish an independent State we need to involve a broad spectrum of organizations and agencies from within the United Nations system. At the same time, regional structures, international financial institutions and individual donor countries should bolster the efforts of the United Nations, which will have to play a coordinating role in this process.

We also believe that as State structures are established in East Timor, the international presence should gradually be wound down. All of these processes, including the transition from UNTAET to the new form of the United Nations presence, should be smooth and carefully regulated so that the achievements of the United Nations in East Timor can continue successfully.

In the light of the points that I have just made, we support the thrust of, as well as the specific ideas contained in, the most recent report of the Secretary-General. We pay tribute to the Secretariat and UNTAET for the enormous amount of work that they have done in developing ideas regarding the future United Nations presence. In this context, however, we must once again note that so far we have not been given a unified, comprehensive concept of future international assistance by the United Nations to East Timor. We are focusing on that issue because we are convinced that, without such a concept, the future activities of the United Nations in East Timor will be based, at best, on mere serendipity, rather than on well calculated, long-term strategies.

It is clear to us that a responsible approach to this matter would require not only expertise, but close coordination of action with all the international players that will be providing assistance to East Timor. We are not talking about giving additional work to any United Nations or international institutions; we are saying that we need to ensure a well-organized, well-thought-out division of labour between them, in accordance with their relevant competences.

We hope that the Secretary-General's detailed proposals to the Security Council will be submitted in good time — ideally by early April — so that the Security Council can elaborate the mandate for the new mission without undue haste, and thus help to foster a smooth outcome to the situation after East Timor gains independence.

Mr. Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): My delegation would like first of all to congratulate Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor, and to thank him for his very informative statement. My delegation also welcomes the presence at this Council meeting of the Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable John Howard; we would like in particular to thank him for his important statement, reflecting his country's invaluable contribution to the development of East Timor.

My delegation would like to extend a special welcome to the Foreign Minister of East Timor. His country will gain its independence on 20 May 2002; 20 May is also Cameroon's national holiday. On 20 May 2002, therefore, our two countries will be celebrating. In anticipation of that happy event, Cameroon, which looks forward to welcoming East Timor to the great family of the United Nations, would like to assure the Minister of its desire to maintain relations of confidence and close cooperation with his country.

On 31 October 2001 the Security Council accepted the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly to the effect that the independence of East Timor should be proclaimed on 20 May 2002. My delegation is impressed by the work that has been accomplished since that time by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). As the report of the Secretary-General states, important progress has been made in the political sphere and concrete results have been achieved in the complex task of setting up a public administration for East Timor. The situation with regard to security has continued to improve, and policies favourable to economic and social development are being implemented.

We note some specific instances of those concrete advances and results. The first is the holding on 14 April of the election of the first President of an independent East Timor.

The second concrete, positive case in point is that the constitution of a new State is being worked out, a constitution that is establishing a unitary, democratic State, based on the rule of law and the principle of the separation of powers.

The third concrete, positive achievement is that the administrative structures are being strengthened, particularly with the creation of an Inspector General's Office, and measures are being undertaken by the Timorese Government to accede to a number of international instruments and organizations once independence is declared.

The fourth positive example concerns the repatriation of refugees. Cameroon welcomes the fact that such repatriation is continuing. As Mr. Vieira de Mello said earlier, there have already been 192,000 returns, with only 60,000 refugees remaining in West Timor. We believe that in order to encourage the process of repatriation, protection and follow-up measures should be envisaged and enhanced. In this respect, I join in the appeal made earlier by the United Kingdom.

The fifth positive point concerns the relations between East Timor and its neighbours. Cameroon has been following this issue with the greatest interest, since harmonious relations between Indonesia, Australia and East Timor are of crucial importance for this young State. We were reassured by the information provided on future meetings to lay the foundations for those relations and the prospect of the creation of a South-West Pacific forum. We extend our best wishes for success, in that regard, to the trilateral meeting of 26 February 2002 between Indonesia, Australia and East Timor.

As we have seen, important advances have been made that are inexorably leading to the independence of East Timor. But the objectives that the Security Council has set are still far from being achieved. It is necessary to maintain a peacekeeping operation before and after independence, and we add our voice in this respect to the very eloquent argument made by the Ambassador of Singapore for the United Nations to remain in East Timor. He expressed with particular eloquence the concerns and consequences to which we would lay ourselves open in the event of an untimely withdrawal.

We also think that the East Timor Public Administration is still greatly dependent on the resources of UNTAET for its operations. The international community should therefore seek the means to meet its needs after independence, lest too great a downsizing of the means available for government action become a destabilizing factor. In that regard, we appreciate the plan for the successor mission to UNTAET, which provides for the maintenance of the United Nations peace mission to ensure East Timor's stability.

As for international assistance in the area of development and poverty reduction, we welcome the initiative undertaken by UNTAET and the United Nations Development Programme to develop plans with a view to proper management of the State's resources.

To conclude, Cameroon associates itself with the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Security Council extend UNTAET's mandate.

Mr. Diallo (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this meeting on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), whose success is cause for satisfaction for the international community.

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for the high quality of his report and to pay due tribute to Mr. Vieira de Mello for the work he has accomplished within UNTAET.

My delegation welcomes the presence here at the start of the meeting of Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, whose country has made a substantial contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability in East Timor.

I would also like to welcome Mr. Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor, who is one of the tireless architects of the East Timorese people's struggle for self-determination.

The positive outcome in resolving the issue of East Timor is to the credit of the international community as a whole, and specifically the United Nations. The efforts undertaken in the political, economic, social, security and humanitarian areas are,

in the view of my delegation, invaluable and should be encouraged.

Regarding the political aspect, my delegation welcomes the discussion and approval of most of the new draft constitution, and hopes that the discussion will be concluded on time in order to enable its final adoption.

We appreciate the dialogue under way between East Timor, Indonesia and UNTAET. We encourage the continuation of this dialogue in order to reach a final settlement of all the problems that have not been resolved. In this respect, my delegation anticipates with interest the results of the high-level meetings planned for February 2002.

My delegation expresses the wish that the presidential elections and the declaration of independence, to take place in April and May 2002 respectively, be carried out peacefully and democratically.

My delegation also greatly appreciates the actions taken to find a solution to humanitarian problems, particularly with regard to refugees. In this respect, we welcome the establishment of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, which must be supported.

With regard to security, we note with satisfaction that reported crime remains low. However, vigilance and deterrence measures must be maintained and reinforced.

With regard to violence against women and children, my delegation supports the proposal on multisectoral interventions. We think that such interventions could, within a complementary framework, be coordinated by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

The establishment in September 2001 of the Planning Commission is an excellent initiative. It should speed up the completion of the final version of the National Development Plan. The international community's support is essential for the formulation of a Land and Property Code, which will enable the settlement of legal disputes and encourage investment.

My delegation supports the provisions of section III of the report on UNTAET's successor mission. We especially endorse paragraph 75 of the report and urge the international community to consolidate past achievements by providing the necessary support of financial and human resources.

We welcome the fact that planning by the Integrated Mission Task Force continues at Headquarters and by integrated planning teams in the field. Coordination between these teams will make it possible to elaborate strategies guaranteeing a better follow-up by the United Nations Mission after independence.

The drafting of laws and the establishment of democratic institutions is one thing. Respect for them is quite another. Progress towards democracy can be strengthened only through solid educational programmes for the East Timorese. That is why my delegation suggests organizing an international donors' conference, preferably before the declaration of independence. Such a meeting would mobilize resources and direct them to programmes that have been previously selected.

My delegation supports the Secretary-General's initiative underlining that international assistance for East Timor must be transformed as quickly as possible into a more normal formula for development aid.

In conclusion, my delegation approves the recommendation on the extension of UNTAET's mandate as indicated in paragraph 104 of the report. We await with interest the Secretary-General's proposals for UNTAET's successor mission after independence.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation would like to thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for his comprehensive and encouraging briefing. We also welcome the presence of Mr. John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, and thank him for his important statement. We also welcome the Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor, Mr. José Ramos-Horta, for his presence at the Council's meeting.

Since our last meeting on the situation in East Timor, more progress towards independence has been made. The East Timorese Public Administration continues to play an increasing role in running the daily affairs of the country. The defence and police forces are developing according to schedule, and the security environment is improving.

After the Constituent Assembly announced that the formal declaration of independence would take place on 20 May 2002, Mr. Vieira de Mello announced, a few days ago, that the presidential election will be held on 14 April. We hope and believe that, like the election of the Constituent Assembly last August, the presidential election will also be held in a free, fair and orderly manner and that the outcome will be accepted by all sides, which is extremely important for a smooth transition and for lasting peace and stability after independence.

We noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), in the light of the development of the situation, has reduced its presence there in a planned manner.

We appreciate the huge amount of work done by Mr. Vieira de Mello and UNTAET under his leadership in helping the people of East Timor achieve independence. We also admire the tireless efforts of the people of East Timor aimed at controlling their own destiny.

On the other hand, as pointed out by the Secretary-General in his report, the situation in East Timor is by no means all peace and prosperity. As a nation State, it has only a very limited pool of professional and administrative expertise, and it still has some security problems. East Timor's development in all its aspects will continue to require international assistance. Therefore, in order to ensure continued stability and development in East Timor and the successful completion of the United Nations Mission, it is necessary to maintain an appropriate presence in post-independence East Timor and to devise a comprehensive and sophisticated exit strategy. This is the consensus reached by the international community, including the members of the Security Council.

The Secretary-General in his report has provided a detailed description of the post-independence international presence, which includes three components: military, police and civilian. It proposes a framework for UNTAET's successor mission. We are of the view that the Secretary-General's analysis is based on an objective assessment and that his proposals are practical, since they provide us with a good basis for our future work on the mandate and the configuration of the successor mission. We support the relevant proposals of the Secretary-General. We also agree with his view that the successor mission needs to ensure that all operational responsibilities are fully transferred to the East Timorese authorities as soon as is feasible without jeopardizing the stability and progress achieved.

Finally, we can agree with the Secretary-General's recommendation of extending the present mandate of UNTAET until 20 May 2002. We are looking forward to the specific ideas and recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the successor mission.

Mr. Franco (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to express thanks for this morning's statement in this Chamber by His Excellency John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia. Australia has been at the forefront in supporting the independence process in East Timor. We all recognize this.

We also welcome Mr. José Ramos-Horta and the Minister of Ireland, Liz O'Donnell. We are also grateful for the information presented by Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, whom we congratulate once again for the work he has done.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts by the Indonesian Government aimed at cooperating constructively in the solution of the problems in East Timor. We express the wish that Indonesia and East Timor will be able to develop mutually beneficial neighbourly relations.

This morning, in this Chamber, we heard Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan. Mutatis mutandis, I believe that one can engage in a certain parallel between the role of the Security Council and the international community in the political processes of both situations. Both cases are in the limelight of international attention and there are great expectations that the near future for both will be one of well-being, prosperity and independence for their populations. Both cases have undergone a process of transformation in which the Security Council has played a critical role. In both cases, hopes for a better future emerge from the catharsis of having known violence. Both cases represent the expectations as to what the international community can and should do to create a better world.

In East Timor, the countdown has begun. The Constituent Assembly decided that direct elections

should be held to choose the first President of East Timor on 14 April 2002. That date is only 73 days from today. The Constituent Assembly finished the process of considering the draft Constitution, and subsequently, 20 May was chosen as the date of independence for East Timor. That ceremony will enjoy the presence of numerous presidents and heads of State, as well as Secretary-General Kofi Annan, thus marking the great significance of that occasion and its truly historic import. I would like to suggest that we seek a mechanism so that the Security Council can be represented at that ceremony through its President, which at that time will be Singapore, or through the presence of one of its highest-ranking members.

Following the recommendations of the Secretary-General in the report before us, the Council members have decided to wait for his next report in order to take a decision with respect to the successor mission. However, I would like to offer a few comments based on our view on this matter.

First, we firmly believe that the international community must continue supporting East Timor after independence in order to consolidate the process and not jeopardize the excellent work done by UNTAET in preparing the new East Timorese Administration. Secondly, we support the basic components of the plan for the successor mission, which proposes a continuation of the United Nations peacekeeping operation, appropriately downsized, including military, civilian police and small civilian components and a group of experts to provide assistance to the new Administration in East Timor. It is clear that the new Administration will need to be consistent with these proposals.

Thirdly, we would stress that all the operational responsibilities must be transferred to the East Timorese authorities, taking due care not to endanger stability and the progress achieved. This is a critical stage. It will be necessary to be on the alert and to evaluate each step in order to avoid setbacks in the process.

Finally, we reiterate that there cannot be full reconciliation unless those responsible for atrocities are brought to justice. To that end, progress must be made without delay.

Mr. Levitte (France) (*spoke in French*): I was just saying to my neighbour and friend, Ambassador Franco, that he took the words right out of my mouth. I wanted to congratulate you, Mr. President, for having organized this morning two debates that are two important symbols of the role that the United Nations can play in helping peoples in dire straits to affirm their rights and achieve their aspirations. It is fortunate that we had these debates one after the other this morning. I do not want to extend this parallel further, because Ambassador Franco said this in Spanish and made the point better than I could in French.

I, too, would like to say how much we appreciated the presence of Prime Minister John Howard at this table, and I pay tribute to the role that Australia has played throughout this great adventure in East Timor since the very first days of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET). As was the case in previous meetings, I would like to warmly welcome Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, and I thank him for his usual clear, precise briefing. It has perfectly covered the outstanding work done by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) under his effective, inspired guidance.

I would also like in the most warm and friendly way to once again welcome to this table our friend José Ramos-Horta, the East Timorese Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The success of the transition to independence owes a lot to him; it was he, in fact, who was, and remains, the architect of the integration of the future independent East Timor into the regional environment. In the space of just a few months, he has successfully presided over the normalization of relations with the Government of Indonesia and, in particular, relations with President Megawati.

Later in this debate a statement will be made on behalf of the European Union. France fully supports that statement, and as we are one of the last speakers in this debate, I will limit myself to just a few comments.

Today's debate is occurring at a turning point in the history of Timor. UNTAET will continue its mandate until 20 May, independence day. A resolution will be adopted tomorrow for that purpose. UNTAET will thus confirm what has been unanimously welcomed as one of the great success stories in the history of the United Nations.

UNTAET has, in exemplary fashion, discharged the various elements of its mandate. The political and administrative transitions are taking place smoothly; security has now been established throughout the territory; the process of reconciliation is well under

way; and, finally, the conditions for economic revival are now present, and the first figures attest to this fact. But the history of East Timor does not stop there, of course. Another success story remains to be written: that of the post-independence period. The logic of this will be different, as the Secretary-General stressed in paragraph 101 of his report:

> "it is important that international assistance to East Timor revert to a normal development model as soon as feasible".

The form of the future international presence has been largely drafted. It seems satisfactory, with a two-year time frame, a civilian presence geared towards some key needs of the Timorese Administration, and a military presence which will be gradually reconfigured in order best to meet the needs of the Timorese: 5,000 men on independence day, and after that it will be undoubtedly between 2,500 and 3,000.

All these issues will be addressed in the next report of the Secretary-General, scheduled to be issued in April following the Timorese presidential elections. After that, our Council will adopt a resolution that will be of particular importance because it will establish the integrated United Nations mission. In this context, we deem it desirable for our Council to hold its next debate in the presence of representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as it has done repeatedly in the past.

A threefold partnership should be established, first, among the United Nations bodies, in which the General Assembly would have an important role to play in formulating peace-building strategies; secondly, between the Security Council and the troop contributors, which must be properly consulted, in accordance with the innovative formula contained in resolution 1353 (2001), in private meetings with the Council; and, finally, between the Security Council and the other stakeholders, including such international financial institutions as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; such regional organizations as the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Asian Development Bank; bilateral donors and private corporations. We must establish global partnerships, pursuant to the wishes of Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

In a word, in conclusion, we must all together pursue our efforts to ensure that independent East Timor is and remains a fine example of the successful establishment of a State in accordance with the wishes of its people and with the decisive support of the entire international community.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Mauritius.

The important statement made this morning by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, The Honourable John Howard, shows the interest which East Timor's neighbour takes in its future. Let me, on behalf of my Government and on my personal behalf, congratulate Mr. Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the people of East Timor for the considerable progress achieved on the path to independence. We wish to assure him of our full cooperation.

I join other delegations also in thanking Mr. Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for the comprehensive briefing he gave this morning.

I would also like to express my profound appreciation to the Secretary-General for his valuable report.

My delegation echoes the appreciation and satisfaction expressed by other delegations for the positive developments in East Timor. We commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his outstanding leadership. His exemplary efforts and excellent work deserve all our gratitude and praise. We also extend our gratitude to the entire staff of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for preparing the newly born State for a peaceful and smooth transition to independence.

The United Nations justly deserves all the merit for conducting a successful operation in East Timor and to take credit for this historic success. The painful past is gone and the people of East Timor must derive immense satisfaction from the thought that their quest for self-determination was legitimate and unquestionable. We must now look to the future with hope and determination that East Timor will emerge as a full-fledged nation ready to assume its rightful place in the international community and to chart a way for the welfare, development and prosperity of all the people of East Timor. Mauritius has been closely associated with the liberation struggle of the East Timorese people and it is with a great sense of

satisfaction that we welcome the successful outcome of that struggle. As a small island State, we are happy that another island State of similar size will be joining the United Nations family.

My delegation is pleased to learn that the Assembly is in the process of reviewing the draft constitution, which will lead the island to a unitary democratic State based on the rule of law, the principle of separation of powers and all the institutions that foster an accountable and responsible Government. We are happy to note that the Timorization process in the economic and administrative sectors is also on the right track.

Like other members, Mauritius fully supports the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the renewal of UNTAET's mandate until 20 May 2002. In view of the success achieved so far, there is no scope or room for any mistake. It is the duty of the United Nations to ensure that everything is done to complete the process in time. Nothing should jeopardize this process. If we are to consolidate our gains and realize the legitimate aspirations of the East Timorese to attaining statehood, we must ensure that the transition is seamless, smooth and obstacle-free.

At this juncture, East Timor needs assistance at all levels in order to instil confidence in the people and to encourage them to forge ahead in shaping the destiny of their own country in accordance with their culture, tradition and political history. It is therefore essential that international assistance to East Timor revert to a normal development level as soon as feasible.

The United Nations, with the help of UNTAET, has given birth to a nation. The international community should now continue nurturing it and prepare the small island nation to operate as a viable State. This is the crucial phase in the political history of any country, especially a newborn one. We must therefore ensure the success of the new State by maintaining security and by building a sustainable administrative and economic base, as mentioned in paragraph 98 of the Secretary-General's report. It is extremely important that East Timor continue to benefit for some time to come, especially after its independence, from United Nations assistance in the form of civilian expertise in various fields of administration and other sectors.

We are happy to learn that the presidential election is scheduled for 14 April. We hope that the maturity shown in the election last August will continue to prevail and that democracy will be given another positive push forward in East Timor.

It is undeniable that peace and stability hinge on the level of security in any State. The risk of both political and criminally driven violence should at all costs be avoided. It is therefore important for competent and adequate police units and law enforcement officers to establish and maintain law and order. We note with satisfaction that training programmes for civilian police, as well as for the East Timor Defence Force, are being accelerated.

My delegation also appreciates the fact that the rate of refugee returns has increased and that nearly 7,000 refugees returned to East Timor over the past period, bringing the total returns to 192,000. We hope that those remaining in the camps of West Timor will soon join their fellow brothers and sisters in independent East Timor. We believe that the voluntary returnees need necessary assistance and support for rehabilitation and should be given the opportunity to serve their country in any appropriate capacity. We call on the international agencies and bilateral donors to continue supporting the rehabilitation programme in a sustained manner.

The significant and historical achievement in East Timor would not have been possible without the unflinching support of the Government of Indonesia. We highly commend the consistent and continuous dialogues between Indonesia and UNTAET/East Timor, paving the way to peaceful coexistence. We applaud the initiatives of the Indonesian Government to hold talks at the ministerial level with UNTAET/East Timor, aimed at providing an appropriate forum to reassess and build upon the progress achieved and to explore ways and means of resolving any outstanding matters.

We note the issue of the presidential decree of 12 January regarding the appointment of 18 judges to the Ad Hoc Human Rights Court and the recent talks held between Indonesian and East Timorese justice officials with a view to promoting legal and judicial cooperation between the two sides. We welcome the ongoing discussions at the level of the Joint Border Committee on the question of the Tactical Coordination Line. We hope that this issue will be addressed as soon as possible to the satisfaction of both parties.

My delegation welcomes the formal setting up of the East Timorese Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation last Monday. Like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, this Commission will serve as an important forum for undoing the wrongs and paving the way for a clean Administration. We welcome the appointment of seven Timorese commissioners and we wish them all the best in their new responsibilities. We are grateful to the multilateral and bilateral donors for their pledges and we encourage them to continue supporting the Commission.

The moment has come for the Security Council to send an unequivocal signal to the people of East Timor and to the international community that a rightly sized, strong and continued presence of the United Nations will have to be maintained for a period of two years from the date of independence to ensure the stability of East Timor. In this regard, we endorse the plan for a successor mission providing for a continued and appropriately reduced United Nations peacekeeping mission in the post-independence era. The mandate outlined in the annex to the report is pragmatic and realistic.

There is no doubt that East Timor will emerge as a strong, viable and prosperous nation with the assistance of the international community, and that it will stand ready to shoulder its responsibilities on its own after the departure of the successor mission.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor.

Mr. Ramos-Horta: I am very grateful for the opportunity to share once again with the members of the Council our views on the situation in East Timor.

Before proceeding further, I would also like to note and express my sincere appreciation for the presence at the meeting this morning of the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard. His presence here underlines Australia's commitment not only to the United Nations and international cooperation, but also, and in particular, to the people of East Timor. The Australian Government and people have been very generous and committed in a multidimensional way to the well-being of East Timor, providing for their needs with regard to security, economic well-being, reconstruction and so on. We are very touched that the Prime Minister of Australia took the time to be here this morning.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello and to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Ms. Liz O'Donnell, for their presence. We wish to ask the delegation of Ireland to convey to the Minister our sincere appreciation, and to ask the Australian delegation to convey to the Prime Minister our most sincere appreciation, for their presence.

In addition, we bring to the members of the Council the warmest greetings of Mr. Xanana Gusmão; Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Chief Minister; and the two Bishops of East Timor, Monsignors Carlos Belo and Basílio do Nascimento.

I would like to express to you, Mr. President, our special appreciation for your country's role over the years in support of our struggle for self-determination. We have a particular admiration for the way Mauritius has succeeded in building its economy and a multi-ethnic society into a prosperous country. Mauritius has managed to develop its economy from one based largely on agriculture to a healthy, middle-income, diversified economy with growing industrial, financial and tourism sectors. I hope that East Timor will be able to follow that example. Perhaps with Mauritius's help, we will succeed in doing so.

Since I last addressed the Council, much has happened in East Timor. I can only add that we can verify positive news in many sectors, notably in the security sector. As Sergio Vieira de Mello reported, there have been hardly any incidents along the border between East and West Timor; the last reported incident occurred in June last year. Credit for this is due partly to the Indonesian authorities, who have taken a firmer stand in disarming the militias and also in encouraging and supporting the return of the refugees to East Timor.

Because Sergio Vieira de Mello made such a comprehensive statement, I believe that most of the content of the speech I had prepared has already been covered. Therefore, I will share informally with the Council some of my personal observations on the situation in East Timor.

First, I would like to respond to a comment by the representative of the United Kingdom. We take it that what he suggested is that the development plan we are trying to put in place be made available to the donor countries in a timely manner, before the donors conference. We will do our best to see that each donor country has the document well in advance of the conference.

The process of designing a blueprint for the economic development of East Timor is quite a unique experiment in our country. It is probably one of the few exercises in national planning and development in which civil society, represented by the churches, non-governmental organizations and intellectuals, have the opportunity, together with the Government, to reflect on the priorities and needs of the country before such a development plan is approved and implemented. That is what we are trying to do in East Timor. The process is a partnership between the United Nations, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the East Timorese Government and a civil society commission, led by Mr. Xanana Gusmão himself.

As I mentioned earlier, the rate of reported crime in East Timor continues to be among the lowest in the world. In a recent conversation, the Police Commissioner of East Timor reported that throughout 2001 there were only four reported cases of murder, none of which was politically motivated. This is in a country where unemployment is very high and poverty is rampant — a country still recovering from the trauma of past violence.

However, one area that is not encouraging is that of domestic violence, in particular against women. East Timorese leaders are puzzled that our society was able to conduct itself with great civility during the election process in July and August, without a single violent incident, and that the crime rate is among the world's lowest, while the rate of domestic violence is surprisingly high. Perhaps this increase actually reflects the higher rate at which such crimes are now reported in the police and justice system, and that domestic violence had existed previously but had gone unreported. With a dynamic press in East Timor today, with institutions and with more trust in the police and justice system, women are coming forward to report cases of violence. We will work hard in the coming days, weeks and months to eradicate this shameful aspect of our reality in East Timor.

We are very pleased at some developments in the preparation of our police force. There are now 1,400 trained police officers deployed all over East Timor. Their presence throughout the election process in July and August, in particular on the day of the election, 30 August last year, was very illustrative of the successful preparation of the East Timor Police Service. However, this is also the case with the East Timor Defence Force. The East Timorese people are very proud of the fact that today we have a battalion that was competently and professionally trained by Portugal and Australia, with significant contributions from New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the United States.

Recently, the naval component of our Defence Force took possession of two modified Albatross patrol boats donated by Portugal. We do not intend, obviously, to have a navy. The need for these boats is very clear. We are an island; we have a large economic zone; we have rampant illegal fishing in our waters; and we also have an obligation to contribute to the region in terms of preventing piracy, human smuggling, drug trafficking and so on. Thus we are making enormous efforts to try to set up a modest navy component to control our waters.

Although the downsizing of the peacekeeping force is a positive indicator of our progress — as has been mentioned, by May there will be no more than 5,000 members of the peacekeeping force in East Timor — we are still concerned, and here we have to be realistic, about the ability of some former militia elements to destabilize the country. We are thus very pleased with the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his report to continue the present peacekeeping force and civilian police in East Timor for some time to come.

There has been much progress also on the refugee-return front. There are still 40,000 to 70,000 refugees living in camps in West Timor. Mr. Vieira de Mello's assessment is an accurate one in terms of the reasons why there are still so many thousands of refugees in West Timor. There are still some rumours circulating about retaliation against refugees when they return, which is absolutely untrue. In the past two years, since 2000-2001, there have been four or five reported cases of returning refugees being assassinated out of the almost 200,000 who have now returned. We are doing our best to educate and inform our people in West Timor about the reality in the territory.

On the question of justice and reconciliation, it has been widely reported that last week members — National Commissioners — of the East Timorese Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation were sworn in. This is an important task. They have an enormous responsibility to establish the truth about the human rights violations that occurred between 1974 and 1999. We emphasize that the Commission will look back as far as 1974, before Indonesian intervention in East Timor. Crimes did not occur only after Indonesian intervention in East Timor.

I have said repeatedly that the East Timorese side must have the courage and humility to acknowledge our own responsibility for the tragedy that befell our people. It would be far too easy to look only at the alleged crimes and the violence that took place after 1975. So from the very beginning we have argued that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission should go back to 1974.

We are also optimistic and pleased with the work of the Serious Crimes Panel. Although it had major problems with funding and personnel, the Panel has done outstanding work in terms of indictments and charges. Some have argued — and if we believe my friend Sergio Vieira de Mello's propaganda — it has been more successful than better-funded war crimes tribunals elsewhere, in the Balkans and so on. Although it started with enormous difficulties, such as lack of funding and of resources, the work of the District Court that handles serious crimes has been very impressive in this regard.

The Constituent Assembly, as the Council is aware, has 12 politically active parties. We started off with 16 parties. In a country of 900,000, we managed to have 16 political parties. The United States, with almost 300 million, has two political parties. France has, I think, five or six political parties. But in East Timor we had 16. During my travels around the country, our people asked me why we had so many political parties in such a small country. We blame it on Sergio Vieira de Mello and on the United Nations, but we told our people that they themselves were the best judges, that on 30 August, they would go to vote; that some parties would survive and others would not; and that in the years to come, some would emerge and many more would disappear. The people handed down their verdict: on 30 August, only 12 parties survived.

The system devised by the United Nations in East Timor was, in retrospect, the best one, in that it favoured the smaller parties as well. Without that system of proportional representation, there would not have been 12 parties. We would not have such an inclusive, multiparty representation in the Parliament.

We were worried that, with so many political parties, the Constituent Assembly would be bogged down in endless debate. But so far the work of that Assembly has been, for the most part, going smoothly. We are taking the advice of our friends from around the world in improving the draft that has now been concluded. We are allowing one extra month, so that we can get more input from the people throughout the district. We are listening to the comments and criticisms of our friends, so that our very first Constitution in 500 years will be a model one — something of which we can really be proud.

On 14 April, we will be holding the presidential elections. In most countries, there is never a lack of candidates. In our country, we have to try to persuade people to run for President. So far we have only one known candidates, but we hope that there will be at least two or three more.

I should now like to refer to relations between East Timor and Indonesia. Sergio Vieira de Mello already spoke in detail about some aspects of the question. I should like simply to add that, in the history of decolonization, seldom has there been, in post-war relations between two countries that separate from each other, such a quick process of reconciliation and normalization of relations. In some cases it has taken generations to heal the rift between some newly independent colonies and the former colonial powers, and in some cases it has taken many years for even formal relations to be established.

In this regard, we can say, with a sentiment of enormous friendship towards Indonesia, that the Indonesian side has shown its maturity and its grandeur in also putting the past where it belongs and in forging a new relationship with East Timor. If we remember the past 25 years, then we will understand the remarkable success that the two sides have achieved. This, in large measure, is also a tribute to our brothers and sisters in Indonesia. We are also grateful to Australia and Indonesia for inviting East Timor to be part of the South-West Pacific forum, which is yet

another indication of the willingness on the part of Indonesia and Australia to embrace East Timor.

On the issue of justice and accountability for others in Indonesia responsible for the violence in East Timor, we are encouraged by the steps taken so far by the Government of President Megawati Soekarnoputri.

In the wider region, our neighbours of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) continue to offer very important support to East Timor's reconstruction and development, capacity-building and security. We have now initiated formal contacts with our ASEAN neighbours and the ASEAN secretariat, hoping that East Timor will be able to sign the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia on independence day or soon after that.

I would also like to mention that on the day after our independence, on 21 May, we will be hosting in Dili, for the first time, a meeting of the heads of State and Government of the Portuguese-speaking community. Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Portugal have been with us for the past quarter of a century. On 21 May 2002, East Timor will formally join the Community of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

We are also working hard in the process of identifying international treaties to which East Timor should accede once it attains independence. The Foreign Ministry is working in close consultation with other Ministries, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and United Nations agencies to prioritize and prepare the necessary steps.

It is our intention, at independence or shortly thereafter, that East Timor will accede to the greatest possible number of international human rights treaties. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is closely watching the drafting of the Constitution to ensure that nothing in the Constitution violates any of the treaties to which East Timor is likely to become a party. As Sergio Vieira de Mello mentioned, we want East Timor to join the United Nations as soon as possible, either on the first day of independence or soon thereafter.

Planning for independence is under way. Celebrations will take on 20 May. The Secretary-General has invited all countries around the world to attend. We hope that all will attend, but if everyone actually attends, that could pose the worst logistic nightmare for East Timor, because we are not exactly Mauritius or Fiji or Namibia, with infrastructures. But, at the same time, we would like everybody to respond positively to the Secretary-General's invitation. We would not go so far as to say to bring sleeping bags and lunch boxes, but we will do our best to welcome everyone, in our poverty and modesty, but with the greatness of the hearts of the people of East Timor.

A great deal has been achieved in the very short time of two years, since UNTAET was put in place. Anyone who visited East Timor in 1999 or 2000 would be amazed at the progress we have made. Reconstruction has begun. Family houses are being rebuilt everywhere. New shops are opening all the time. Agricultural output has reached the level of 1999, and more children are now enrolled in schools than before 1999. In 2001 we enjoyed 18 per cent economic growth in real terms. The previous year we posted 15 per cent growth. However, economic growth will slow down considerably in the course of this year.

We are confident, nevertheless, that East Timor will have a viable, sustainable economy. Reference was already made to the potential revenues from oil and gas. Tourism will also thrive once we have created the necessary infrastructures. But in the short term, East Timor will need the Council's assistance, and we ask, on behalf of the second Transitional Government and the entire country, that this Council endorse the concept of a successor mission, which has been carefully thought out and planned by my UNTAET colleagues. In this way, the gains that have resulted from the Council's tremendous commitment to East Timor will be consolidated and maintained in the crucial years to come.

The President: It is now 1.35 p.m. I think it is an appropriate time to break for lunch. But I wish, before we suspend the meeting, to remind all remaining speakers that we have a very heavy workload in the Security Council today. We have to complete consideration of East Timor and also the special meeting that we started yesterday on Africa. We also have consultations on the Middle East. So I will urge all remaining speakers to be as brief as possible in order to enable us to complete our work for today. We will resume at 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4462 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4462nd meeting

Wednesday, 30 January 2002, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Gayan	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	Colombia	Mr. Franco
	France	Mr. Levitte
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Ms. O'Donnell
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2002/80 and Corr.1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-23649 (E)

The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Spain. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Arias (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries belonging to the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein align themselves with this statement.

It is indeed a pleasure once again to greet the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello. We renew our deep gratitude to him and to the rest of the personnel of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for the remarkable way in which they are carrying out their Security Council mandate.

We are also very pleased to greet the Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. José Ramos-Horta. Our thanks and praise go also to the people of East Timor, without whose support the extraordinary progress achieved over the past year would have been impossible.

The year 2002 will mark the birth of a new country that will become a Member of the United Nations: 20 May will be independence day for East Timor and a date for the Organization to remember with pride and satisfaction. However, we want to stress that it will not be the last day of the United Nations association with East Timor. There is a need to guarantee the security of the country and the viability and stability of the future Government as UNTAET progressively transfers responsibilities to it. The European Union strongly supports the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of UNTAET be extended until 20 May. We also welcome the proposals for the phasing out of the United Nations presence and for a successor mission to serve for an estimated two years after independence.

The European Union has already endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mission should be an integrated one drawing upon all the services of the United Nations. We welcome the consistency of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/80) vis-à-vis the proposals he had set out in his report (S/2001/983) of last October. We look forward to further specific proposals in due course.

Since the previous report of the Secretary-General was issued in October 2001, the pace of progress towards independence has accelerated. The security environment has improved. A draft constitution is being intensely discussed by the Constituent Assembly with the assistance of, inter alia, the European Union. Presidential elections will take place on 14 April.

We congratulate UNTAET and the East Timorese people on the increasing number of responsibilities that local institutions are assuming in areas such as public administration, security and social and economic affairs.

We acknowledge the crucial role that the Indonesian Government is playing under the leadership of President Megawati Soekarnoputri. Relations with Indonesia are gradually improving, although important issues such as cooperation in the investigation of serious crimes and human rights violations, payment of pensions and the demarcation of the common border are still pending.

Despite these achievements, major challenges to a successful transition remain. Several reported incidents of political violence should remind us of the need for adequate channels for expressing political dissent and diversity. The full and peaceful integration of various political currents through political parties will be critical for a successful transition to democracy.

In the elections held in August 2001, the East Timorese people showed their political maturity. The coming 14 April elections should be held in a similarly peaceful and transparent way.

Despite the continued long-term militia threat along the border with Indonesia, we note that the Secretary-General deems it feasible to plan for a gradual assumption of security responsibilities by East Timorese institutions. We support the Secretary-General's proposal to reduce UNTAET's military and civilian police components by the time of independence. We note his observations that the security situation and the provision of adequate training and equipment to the East Timor Defence

Force and the Police Service will directly affect the downsizing plans.

Success in East Timor is very much about reconciliation. During recent months, refugees have continued to return, although there are still many in camps in West Timor. Efforts should continue to be made to promote cross-border contacts, increase mutual confidence and resolve the problem of the payment of pensions.

Reconciliation, however, must be cemented by justice. We welcome the recent establishment of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. The continuation of the work carried out by the courts and the Office of the General Prosecutor will be important steps in this direction.

The European Union once again calls upon the Government of Indonesia to ensure the speedy operationalization of the Ad Hoc Human Rights Court, fully mandated in accordance with international standards, with jurisdiction over all human rights violations. In this regard, we welcome the appointment by the Government of Indonesia of judges for the Ad Hoc Human Rights Court and recall the urgency of making the Court operational. We trust that cooperation with UNTAET in judicial matters will progress in a similar way. The European Union is ready to provide technical assistance to both the judges and the prosecutors of the Ad Hoc Court.

We are hoping for a parallel evolution in the economic and social services areas. The Secretary-General's report contains some good news, showing that economic activity is expanding. The international community has an important role to play in supporting the economy of East Timor. It is now time to move towards a relationship based on development goals. The donor community should provide support beyond independence.

The collection and investment of revenues from natural resources will be essential. As it becomes less dependent on international donors and develops into a stable country based on sound institutions and peaceful relations with its neighbours, it will become attractive to international investors.

As we see other countries in the world falter in the wake of conflict or natural disasters, we hope that the success of East Timor will prove to be less of an exception and more of a precedent.

The date of 20 May might well become a significant milestone in the often troubled history of United Nations peacekeeping. We are learning the hard way, through trial and error — or perhaps in this case I should say "trial and success".

In May, a new State will be born, and the United Nations — that is, all of us — will have reason to be proud. It is now up to all of us to bring this process to fruition and to help our new sibling stride safely into a world that is demanding, but full of promise.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Satoh (Japan): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting on this important subject. I welcome Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report of 17 January, submitted to the Security Council, on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). I would also like to express my appreciation for today's briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, and by East Timor's Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. José Ramos-Horta.

At the outset, I would like once again to express, on behalf of the Government of Japan, our high regard for the contributions that UNTAET has made to efforts aimed at achieving East Timor's independence and for the leadership that Mr. Vieira de Mello has demonstrated in the process. Naturally, the Government of Japan supports the extension of UNTAET's mandate, as recommended in the Secretary-General's report, until 20 May this year — the date on which East Timor is to become independent.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our admiration for the people of East Timor, who, in cooperation with UNTAET, have been making strenuous efforts to achieve their own independence. We would encourage them to tackle, with a sense of ownership, the remaining tasks leading up to independence, including the adoption of the new Constitution and the holding of the presidential election.

For its part, the Government of Japan will continue to extend to the people of East Timor and to UNTAET its utmost cooperation and assistance in order to ensure the stability and prosperity of East

Timor. The comprehensive resolution of the issue of East Timorese refugees will be vitally important for the stability of East Timor. Recognizing that fact, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi recently announced, in response to the Joint Appeal made by the United Nations and the Government of Indonesia, that Japan would extend assistance amounting to $5.39 million to support East Timor refugees in West Timor. Prime Minister Koizumi also told Mr. Xanana Gusmão, the former President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance, who is now visiting Japan, that the Japanese Government will consider extending assistance amounting to $1 million for the activities of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation.

Furthermore, the Government of Japan is now preparing to dispatch an engineering group of approximately 700 members of its Self-Defence Forces to the peacekeeping operation in East Timor. The engineering group plans to begin its deployment on the ground in the course of March and April, engaging in the construction and repair of roads and bridges, thus making a contribution to the reconstruction and development of East Timor.

We are pleased to note in the Secretary-General's report the progress being made in planning the functions and structure of the post-UNTAET follow-on mission. The Government of Japan is of the view that a United Nations presence is necessary in order to ensure the stability of East Timor after it achieves independence. We therefore hope that the work of preparing the Secretary-General's recommendations on the follow-on mission will be completed as soon as possible and that the Security Council will promptly decide on the establishment of the mission.

I would like to make it clear in this context that the Japanese Government supports the idea of funding a minimum and indispensable civilian component, including 100 key functions, with peacekeeping assessed contributions.

The independence of East Timor, which will soon be achieved, will be a success story for a world in which conflict and instability are widespread. But as I have stated several times in this Council, many difficulties lie ahead for East Timor, before and after independence, and it is the responsibility of the international community to continue to extend its support and cooperation to the people of East Timor. Recognizing this, the Government of Japan is determined to continue to play an important role in the international community's efforts to support East Timor.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Portugal. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Seixas da Costa (Portugal): Let me begin by expressing what an honour it is for all of us who are concerned with the East Timor process to see you, Sir, presiding over this meeting. This stresses the importance that the Mauritius presidency of the Security Council, whose performance we all praise, attaches to this question.

I would be remiss if I also did not mention the symbolism of the presence at the Council this morning of the Prime Minister of Australia and the State Minister of Ireland.

Portugal fully supports the statement that has been delivered by Ambassador Inocencio Arias of Spain on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union. Since a lot of our views are contained in that statement, I will focus my own on some issues of particular relevance to my country.

Like others, I would like to start by thanking you, Sir, for convening this meeting and giving the general membership of the United Nations the opportunity to participate in this debate. I also want to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, for taking time from his very busy agenda in Dili to come to New York and brief us on the progress achieved by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), as well as on his views for the future of the United Nations presence in East Timor. I also must express our appreciation to the Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. José Ramos-Horta, for sharing with us the insights of the East Timorese leadership.

I would especially like to thank the Secretary-General and his staff for the report we have before us. In it the Secretary-General reaffirms his recommendations for the United Nations peacekeeping mission that will succeed UNTAET, as well as for the measures being taken to achieve as seamless a transition as possible from one to the other. The fact that the framework defined several months ago and amply discussed with the Timorese is now being

reaffirmed and reinforced clearly shows how well the United Nations knows the situation on the ground and how seriously it has engaged in the planning exercise.

Portugal fully supports the recommendation contained in paragraph 104 of the Secretary-General's report to extend the current UNTAET mandate until the date of independence. As this historic day approaches, I believe we need to look closely at what has been done to date, as well as at the way ahead of us.

We have all many times congratulated UNTAET for the progress it has achieved, together with the Timorese and the rest of the international community, in East Timor's security, political, economic and social life. But I think we have grown used to looking at UNTAET and East Timor as a success story and to take that for granted. We sometimes loose sight of how difficult and complex UNTAET's task was and still is.

The initial UNTAET mandate, contained in resolution 1272 (1999), was approved in October 1999. Although the first United Nations officials moved to Dili very soon after that, it was not until the first trimester of 2000 that the mission was fully deployed. This means that we are having this debate just about two years after the very start of UNTAET. Two years is really not much time to work literally from scratch on establishing a security environment, building a democratic government, improving human capacity, rebuilding infrastructure and restarting the economy.

We all have very strong reasons to feel proud if we consider that, only two years after the widespread violence that followed the popular consultation, the Timorese can reasonably expect to have not only their long-fought-for independence, but also a functioning administration, a democratic regime that respects human rights, and prospects for economic sustainability.

In just two years security has been re-established, the training of local police and defence forces is under way, 192,000 refugees have returned and been successfully reintegrated in their communities, and the health and education systems are working again. Many roads, bridges and public buildings have been rebuilt, and water and electricity are being provided to the population. A Constitutional Assembly has been elected and a Transitional Government subsequently appointed, new legislation has been passed in all areas of activity, and the courts and prisons are functioning.

I believe we should be asking ourselves how many United Nations missions can claim such an extensive record of achievements. How many of our own countries can report similar developments in such a short time and under such difficult conditions? East Timor is four months into the process approving a constitution and very close to concluding it. I do not believe it would be feasible to accelerate this and other processes without serious risk to their future sustainability.

My Government strongly believes that all these reasons amply justify the continued engagement of the United Nations and the international community in East Timor, especially after independence. The fact that UNTAET and the Timorese have achieved so much is all the more reason to continue supporting them, so they can finish and strengthen the tasks that the Security Council entrusted to them. Any other option would be irresponsible and unacceptable. It would be like punishing the good student because he has been doing all his homework and is therefore getting better results than his colleagues.

Section III of the Secretary-General's report outlines in some detail the plans for the transition to the post-independence United Nations mission in East Timor. Portugal strongly supports the framework and line of action proposed, as well as the timeline envisaged for that process. We believe that an integrated peacekeeping mission, comprising military, police and civilian components, is the best approach to post-independence support for East Timor. We feel very strongly that a number of civilian support positions should be included in that mission and financed through assessed contributions in order to ensure minimum stability to the new administration in its early stage of independence.

I would like to highlight the recommendations of the Secretary-General in the area of security. We noted that despite the significant improvements there are still some risks and that the planned downsizing of the peacekeeping force is taking this into account. We also noted that the Secretary-General linked the progressive downsizing of the military and police components of UNTAET to the progress in training and making operational the East Timor Police Service and Defence Forces. We very much support this approach by the Secretary-General, which is based on the continued analysis of the prevailing situation on the ground.

The Security Council as a whole, and its member States individually, have been instrumental in the progress of East Timor towards independence. By handing down to UNTAET a very comprehensive mandate, the Council did not make the mission's goal any easier, but it certainly allowed it to develop an integrated and wide-ranging approach to peace and stability in the country. It allowed the United Nations and the international community to develop its action with due regard for the interlinked nature of the requirements for stability. We all know that in today's world there is hardly any separation between security, political, social and economic problems. To address one, we have to address all of them in a coordinated manner. This is by no means an easy task, but it is the only way to address conflict and post-conflict situations if we are to reach sustainable solutions. This is as valid for East Timor as it is everywhere.

In its presidential statement of 31 October 2001, the Council endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations for the post-independence mission in East Timor, including the need to ensure assessed funding for a number of civilian positions. The Council has thus made clear that it is willing to continue to have a supportive and constructive role in East Timor's independence and stability. It has also made it possible for the Secretariat to have an early and very clear basis on which to develop an exit strategy which takes into account the United Nations capacities, the situation on the ground and the wishes of all people of the country.

I believe that, for the first time in its peacekeeping history, the United Nations is analysing the impact of its withdrawal from a country and is trying to define timely measures to counter and reduce its negative effects. This means we are learning from past mistakes and establishing good precedents for the future.

Looking at the post-independence period in East Timor, I must underline a number of areas that we believe are crucial for the sustainability of democracy and the rule of law. These are the training of the Timorese police and military, the development of the judiciary, and the establishment of a human rights culture. In all these areas several steps have been taken, both through UNTAET and through United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizatons and bilateral donors, but a lot remains to be done.

Without a strong and well-trained judiciary, the basic premise of democracy — the separation of powers — cannot become a reality and the people will not be able to trust their governmental institutions. Also, without a strong judiciary, there is not much room for reconciliation and the healing of society. Reconciliation and justice must go hand in hand. I believe the Timorese have shown they are very tolerant and willing to forgive. They want to leave the past behind them and build a new future. But this is not likely to last if there are no assurances that in that future, crimes will not go unpunished.

Similarly, the police and military must absolutely be perceived as professional forces, subject to civilian rule, that exist to protect and help the citizens. As for human rights, I do not need to point out how important it is that they are not only formally included in the legal basis of the State but also implemented in the daily administration of the country.

Portugal believes that the post-independence presence in East Timor must continue to have a strong role in these areas. Building credible institutions will be the best legacy that the United Nations, indeed all of us, can leave in East Timor. And it is not an area where we can afford to fail. I can assure you that Portugal has done and will continue to do its utmost to support these endeavours.

In the four months ahead of us, the role of the Council will continue to be crucial. A number of aspects, both substantive and procedural, will need to be discussed and agreed on so that the Council can take timely action to turn the planning exercise into a reality. We are looking forward to further recommendations from the Secretary-General on issues such as the mechanisms of cooperation between the United Nations and the Timorese authorities after independence, especially in the area of security, and the mechanisms that will trigger the post-independence United Nations mission in the country. Portugal would welcome an early discussion of these issues among Council members and between Council members and other interested countries.

The independence of East Timor will be a historic moment not only for the Timorese; it will also be very special for the United Nations. Some people have said that East Timor is the child of the United Nations. I would say rather that East Timor is the child of its own very difficult struggle but that it would not be about to

stand on its own if it were not for the excellent caretaker leading it in its first years.

The independence of East Timor is an important date in a long process in which the East Timorese were always the major players as the masters of their own destiny. In the past, they were prepared to die in order to prove that they were alive. In the future, I am sure they will give us a lesson of responsibility in the management of their new democratic State.

But let us not forget that the international community cannot assume a neutral role in the process of building their nation, because the international community has implicitly recognized that for many years it was guilty of the neutrality it assumed when the Timorese were the innocent victims of the injustices of history.

The United Nations was able to reconcile the international community with the Timorese. The Council, as one of the Organization's major organs, has the duty to guarantee that the responsibility of the United Nations is exercised until the adequate means to run the country are put at disposal of the Timorese. Through the Timorese case, the Council also has the opportunity to reflect on the way the United Nations operates in all its dimensions in its peacekeeping missions. Not currently being a member of the Council, I am sure that you will not disappoint those who trust its *sagesse*.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): We thank you, Mr. President, and Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, for organizing this public meeting on this important subject despite the heavy calendar of the Security Council this month.

This debate once again affords us an opportunity to deliberate on the situation in East Timor in the presence of the country's Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. José Ramos-Horta, and the head of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, who are together in this Chamber. High tributes are owed to both. The participation of Prime Minister John Howard this morning was encouraging, Australia having been such a key player.

The Secretary-General's current report underlines progress in a number of important areas regarding the situation in East Timor. While awaiting his report on UNTAET's successor mission, I should emphasize a few critical elements on the journey ahead.

First, East Timor is on course to becoming a major success story of the United Nations. But that can be assured only if the United Nations exit is premised on a sound strategy and not only on political expediency or financial considerations. I would only emphasize that the Security Council underscored the need for a gradual and orderly exit from East Timor beyond independence when adopting presidential statement PRST/2001/32 at its 4403rd meeting last October, during which Ambassador Mahbubani also made reference to the Secretary-General's report.

Secondly, we recognize the constructive role of Indonesia in ensuring the stability and vitality of the Timorese State and its people. We were heartened by last week's meeting in Kupang, Indonesia, between the East Timorese Government and its West Timorese counterpart to address reconciliation and the return of refugees to East Timor. The Indonesian Supreme Court's recent verdict, we hope, will add to a positive spirit in next month's high-level talks in Denpasar to address the outstanding bilateral issues comprehensively.

An early resolution of those issues will have a significant effect on the containment of an illegal economy along the border and on the return of refugees to East Timor. For a nascent Government like that of East Timor, the draining of precious foreign currency through smuggling can indeed prove destabilizing, as it introduces many other vices into society. Similarly, the return of the remaining 60,000 to 75,000 refugees to East Timor before independence will also remain a critical benchmark. An early conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between East Timor and Indonesia in that regard, we believe, would also deepen the relations between the two countries.

Thirdly, continued financial support to East Timor will remain critical in the foreseeable future. The rationale and pitfalls in that respect are well articulated in the report, especially in paragraphs 75 and 84. The Timorese Government should be assured of adequate assistance. As has been stated this morning, there is a need for early funding in a number of areas, particularly for making operational the

Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, accomplishing tasks related to the prosecution of serious crimes. However, the essential point remains that, for an independent East Timor to be viable and vibrant, UNTAET's successor mission should be funded through assessed contributions.

Finally, Bangladesh supports the extension of UNTAET's mandate and other observations and recommendations that the Secretary-General has made in his report. Just like the others present here, Bangladesh is looking forward to the ceremonies in May in East Timor. That occasion will be a celebration of hope, in which Bangladesh will be privileged to participate at a high level, in keeping with our involvement in East Timorese reconstruction.

The President: I now invite the representative of Fiji to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Naidu (Fiji): Mr. President, my delegation is very pleased to see you preside over this very important meeting. We welcome you to New York. We also commend the dynamic leadership of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello through whom the Security Council mandates have been accomplished to date. My delegation also wishes to recognize the contribution of Mr. Ramos-Horta, Senior Foreign Minister, for his role in the developments in East Timor leading to its independence on 20 May 2002.

Fiji is closely following the progress of developments in East Timor. As a fledgling State of the wider Asia-Pacific region that has come out of years of struggle and conflict, we are truly proud of East Timor's achievements thus far. Its successes closely mirror those of similar peace-building initiatives in the Pacific, such as Bougainville, Solomon Islands, and, to some extent, my own country, Fiji. We hope that this wind of peace heralds more constructive engagements towards democratic governance in the region and beyond.

Fiji's peacekeeping task in Suwai, bordering West and East Timor, has not been an easy one. While light is visible at the end of the tunnel, we will stay engaged as long as is necessary.

We congratulate the Constituent Assembly and the people of East Timor on their plans for independence on 20 May 2002 and observe that the presidential elections scheduled for 14 April 2002 are on target. Fiji has been approached to provide one of the two international members of the Board of Commissioners for the April presidential elections. In this regard, my Government is pleased to be of service in this historic engagement, as well as in similar electoral engagements, such as the recent one in the Solomon Islands.

Some remarkable advances made since October 2001 are detailed in the Secretary-General's report on the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Fiji is heartened by the building of a rapprochement between West and East Timor through the border reconciliation meetings between Indonesia and East Timor. As expected, the resulting positive effects on internal security have been reported by the Secretary-General. This increasingly welcome environment, coupled with some outstanding tasks for the new Assembly to resolve with the assistance of UNTAET, will encourage more refugee returns.

In this difficult transition period, we are particularly challenged by the preparatory work on building a gender component into the administration system prior to independence. In turn, we are hopeful that this will engender a more secure domestic environment than as reported with respect to women and children.

We are pleased to see civil service recruitment reaching close to its target, a slow but steady development of the infrastructure and robust socio-economic progress, especially in the education sector. It is critical, however, that allocations in the United Nations core budget remain committed to support a specific number of civilian technical assistance posts. This would boost programmes for socio-economic development and poverty eradication.

All parties have been alerted to the downside of UNTAET's drawdown and ultimate withdrawal. In anticipation of this event, we therefore encourage the Constituent Assembly, in conjunction with UNTAET, to continue with measures that would cushion the impact on the local economy.

Although security is largely at hand, much depends on the border delimitation issue to be determined by the respective Governments of East Timor and Indonesia. Capital investment is also critical in order to develop the full capacity of the East Timor Defence Force and, similarly, for the certification

targets of the East Timor Police Service. Until both the Defence Force and the Police Service show the capability to maintain security in East Timor, the UNTAET military and civilian police components should stay engaged. This transition is predicated on a viable capital programme.

Other related concerns that will sustain post-independence East Timor are equally dependent on benevolent international and bilateral donations. In this regard, we are very hopeful that an outpouring of goodwill will in time bring a fitting closure to UNTAET's mandate.

We also look forward to the celebrations on 20 May 2002, and we anxiously await the welcoming of East Timor into the fold of the United Nations, thus increasing the number of Member States from 189 to 190.

The President: I thank the representative of Fiji for his kind words addressed to the Chair.

I now invite the representative of the Republic of Korea to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, let me begin by commending you for your leadership in the Security Council this past month. I would also like to thank Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello for his useful briefing. We also welcome the presence of Senior Minister Ramos-Horta and the briefing he has given us.

In the process of helping East Timor achieve independence, we have witnessed several landmark events. Following the successful completion of the Constituent Assembly elections last August, we now have a number of other critical tasks before us, such as the presidential elections in April and the independence celebrations in May.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the staff of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the East Timorese people for their hard work in preparing those political processes. We hope that the East Timorese people, despite some reported rivalries among political groups, will once again demonstrate their capacity for democracy by smoothly adopting a Constitution and holding peaceful and democratic presidential elections.

We are eager to witness and participate in the historic celebration of a new nation's independence, and my delegation fully endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend UNTAET's mandate until that time.

Regarding the restructuring of UNTAET, we welcome the detailed downsizing plan that will continue to be implemented until independence, as well as the general picture that has been painted of the post-UNTAET mission. In accordance with the plan, the Republic of Korea's military battalion successfully completed its one-and-a-half-year mission in the eastern area and was recently redeployed to the Oecussi enclave. The Korean battalion will do its best to ensure the security of the new mission area and to promote the development of the area together with a Japanese engineering company, which is expected to arrive there soon.

With respect to the United Nations mission in East Timor after independence, we fully agree with the Secretary-General's basic assessment that the continued assistance of the international community will be required, considering the still weak security environment of East Timor and its fragile administrative and economic foundations. In keeping with the East Timorese people's efforts to become self-reliant in the shortest possible time, a gradual exit strategy for the United Nations peacekeeping mission should be planned and implemented in a way that will not diminish all the progress that has been achieved up to now. We hope that the planners can work out a downsizing programme that strikes a good balance between the United Nations assessed contributions and the roles of bilateral and multilateral donors. We look forward to seeing another report of the Secretary-General before the termination of the UNTAET mandate, containing further specific proposals for the mandate and structure of the successor mission of UNTAET.

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize two points. First, a slackening of resolve among donors or the overly speedy disengagement of the international community in East Timor would be detrimental and must be forestalled. Secondly, the long-term viability and progress of East Timor will very much depend on its relations with its neighbours and other regional and international friends.

We will continue to follow the developments in East Timor with great optimism and anticipation. The Government and the private sector of the Republic of Korea are committed to developing strong political and economic ties with the democratic republic of East Timor.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of New Zealand. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. MacKay (New Zealand): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to address the Council today and for your presidency this month. We are, as always, very appreciative of Council meetings which are held in open session, like this one, as well as of other mechanisms to strengthen dialogue with Council members, such as the very useful troop-contributor meeting held on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) last week.

We are also very pleased to see Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello and Mr. José Ramos-Horta here participating in the discussion today so eloquently and perceptively, as they always have in the past.

New Zealand is very happy to support the renewal of UNTAET's mandate through to East Timor's forthcoming independence in May this year. We very much commend the hard work and determination of the East Timorese people and of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the leadership provided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in laying the foundations for independence in such a very short period.

The Secretary-General's report of developments in East Timor, from mid-October 2001 to the present, summarizes very well both the achievements and the ongoing challenges. New Zealand very warmly endorses that report. We welcome in particular the innovative step taken by the East Timorese Council of Ministers to hold open meetings in each of East Timor's 13 districts as a means of educating the population on the workings of government. We also very much applaud the interim Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen East Timor's relations with its neighbour, Indonesia. We also note with some pleasure how the small seeds planted by New Zealand customs officers back in January 2000 have today grown into a very respectable East Timor customs, immigration and quarantine service responsible for bringing in significant government revenue.

As the Secretary-General's report makes clear, however, the partnership venture between East Timor and the United Nations is not yet over. I noted the words of Prime Minister Howard of Australia in his most eloquent statement, when he said that, without continuing support, these successes cannot be maintained. I think that, if one looks at the themes that have come through from the discussion in the Council both this morning and this afternoon, that has certainly been a very consistent theme. Our colleague from Singapore used the term "unfinished business" and I think that is very much what everyone has in mind.

It is certainly true that the challenges that lie ahead are considerable and, as underlined in Oslo last month, will call for constant vigilance that precious funds are directed to top-priority activities. Both the East Timorese leadership and the international community have a particular duty to ensure that mutual expectations — both those of the East Timorese people and those which the international community has of East Timor — remain realistic and within the capacity of donors and the East Timorese Government to deliver.

For our part, we take this occasion to renew New Zealand's unequivocal support for what the people and the interim Government of East Timor, with exceptional international assistance, are striving to achieve. We all share the same end-goal — self-sufficiency for the country and people of East Timor — and look forward to donor relations with East Timor reverting to a normal development model as soon as feasible.

We are therefore very happy to endorse the Secretary-General's concept of a successor mission whose primary objective will be to enable an independent and stable East Timor to stand on its own two feet and for the United Nations to quickly fulfil its post-independence mandate.

For its part, New Zealand will continue to contribute to East Timor's and international efforts in the build-up to independence and beyond through ongoing military and civilian expertise and through development assistance. We are now well-launched down the path of a new bilateral relationship with a new and very valued regional neighbour. It is thanks to the determination of the United Nations to do right by

that new and small country that the possibility for such constructive links exists.

We therefore reiterate New Zealand's support for this last extension of UNTAET's mandate and look forward to the Council's detailed consideration of the United Nations post-independence presence at a later date.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Brazil. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Fonseca (Brazil): It is a great honour to have you, Sir, presiding over today's meeting.

Let me begin by paying tribute to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello, whose leadership has been instrumental in making the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) a success story we all should be proud of. I would like also to welcome Mr. José Ramos-Horta, the Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor and one of the greatest leaders of his country.

The work of Sergio Vieira de Mello and his team has been made easier thanks both to the vision of the East Timorese leaders, such as Senior Minister Ramos-Horta, and to the political maturity of its heroic people.

At this critical juncture, as we prepare for independence and plan for the successor mission to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), it is important to convey a clear message to the East Timorese people. This must be a message of encouragement and unflinching support: we will not let you down, you will not be alone, your struggle for freedom was not in vain.

Independence will be declared in a few months, but that will not be the end of the United Nations involvement in East Timor. It must be the beginning of a new phase in which the exercise of sovereignty by the East Timorese will have to be shored up by our cooperation and support in a vast array of critical areas.

The mission of the United Nations in East Timor was not merely the creation of new State; it was, and still is, the creation of a functioning, stable and democratic State. As our Secretary-General rightly points out in his latest report, a number of difficulties facing the nascent State will require significant assistance from the international community. We must ensure a smooth transition to independence — one that preserves stability and security as well as continuity in the public administration. For that to happen, we cannot rely solely on voluntary contributions. It is necessary to secure a predictable source of funding.

Brazil supports the establishment of a successor mission, as proposed by the Secretary-General, which would comprise a military component, a civilian police component and a civilian component. Given the very limited pool of professional and administrative expertise in East Timor, it is particularly important that the civilian component include the 100 key functions within the administration to guarantee continuity and ensure on-the-job training for East Timorese officials. Undoubtedly, these positions must be included in the assessed funding of the new mission.

As for the military and civilian police components, their downsizing is desirable. The only factor that must guide the downsizing process, however, is the capacity of the East Timor Defence Force and the East Timor Police Service to provide external and internal security. As far as we know, despite the relative calm in East Timor, hard-line militias may still pose a long-term threat and continue to be a source of concern.

If we are to apply commonsensical lessons from our own previous experiences with United Nations peacekeeping operations, we must hope for the best of scenarios but prepare for the worst. I am confident that stability will be preserved in East Timor as the democratic process evolves and the reconciliation efforts gain momentum. However, let us ground the decisions concerning the level of the force and the duration of its presence in a clear assessment of the concrete needs of the future sovereign State of East Timor.

We have witnessed important progress in the implementation of UNTAET's mandate over the last year. The election for the Assembly was a huge success that bodes well for the future of party politics and democracy in East Timor. The Constituent Assembly has made strides in its deliberations. With regard to the refugees, it is good news that there has been an increase in the number of repatriations. This is also a sign that the efforts of Xanana Gusmão, with a view to healing the wounds of past animosity, are bearing fruit despite reports of misinformation in the camps. Brazil appreciates the efforts of President Megawati of

Indonesia to solve pending issues and build strong bilateral ties with East Timor based on friendship and mutual respect. This is crucial for the stability and development of East Timor.

All these positive aspects notwithstanding, it is clear that there remain important deficiencies that must be addressed with the continued support of the international community. It is also important to address legal problems that might inhibit economic recovery and development, particularly the need for clear and stable legislation on property rights as well as a commercial code.

The impressive growth of East Timor's gross domestic product in 2001, by 18 per cent, will be difficult to maintain in 2002. In this context, it becomes even more important to continue to put in place income-generating projects to minimize the possible adverse impact of the decrease in United Nations personnel and expenditure. In addition, it is essential to maintain the current level of public services after independence. The deterioration of such services, which include health and education, would hurt the most vulnerable and could constitute a blow to public confidence in the future State.

Anyone who deals with development issues knows that widespread poverty, high unemployment rates and the collapse of public services are an explosive mixture and a recipe for trouble. This is exactly what we must avoid at all costs, and it is why the international community as a whole must continue to provide generous support for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of East Timor.

A mission with a mandate as broad as that of UNTAET requires a sizeable investment. It is time to protect the investment we made. We cannot afford to jeopardize the progress achieved.

The day of independence will mark a new era in East Timor, the fulfilment of a legitimate aspiration of an admirable people. But it will also be a moment to reflect on the complex challenges that lie ahead in terms of making the independence of East Timor work for every citizen. The international community must bear in mind that the declaration of independence is no magic wand that will turn East Timor into a full-fledged and functioning State. Now is the time to show solidarity and ensure that independence becomes more than a symbolic event to celebrate the glory of those who fought for self-determination.

The celebration of the deeds of the East Timorese heroes is important, but it will be really meaningful only if the people of East Timor are given the opportunity to use their independence to attain a dignified livelihood. To that end, the assistance of the international community continues to be vital. We hope that the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations will continue to give high priority to East Timor. This will require matching our words of support with resolute decisions and firm actions.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of the Philippines. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Manalo (Philippines): At the outset, Sir, allow me to express my delegation's pleasure in seeing you preside over this meeting and our congratulations on your delegation's successful and able leadership and guidance of the Council during this month.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his latest comprehensive report on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). In addition, we wish to express our appreciation to Prime Minister Howard, Senior Minister Ramos-Horta and Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello for their statements earlier today.

We are almost at curtain time in East Timor. All our efforts for more than two years will be rigorously tested starting 20 May, when East Timor formally declares independence. As the Secretary-General observes, the international community has abundant reasons to be proud of what has been accomplished in East Timor in such a short period of time. For many of us, it is also truly gratifying to have made some contribution in the efforts towards creating a strong foundation for an independent East Timor — a real success story in the history of the United Nations.

In times of success, such as in East Timor, it is not difficult to be lured into complacency, to rest on our laurels and become victims of our own success and achievements. However, we hope that our success in East Timor will not distract us from the multitude of tasks remaining to be done.

We have not yet reached the point, in our view, where we can be reasonably assured that our efforts in East Timor will be secure and durable. My delegation therefore urges the Security Council and the international community to remain vigilant and to

ensure that the gains we have achieved thus far, and intend to achieve in the future, in East Timor are preserved and sustained.

We have carefully read the report of the Secretary-General. It is essentially, in our view, an unequivocal call for adequate funding and support for East Timor. UNTAET, the Secretariat and other international partners are working hard to come up with a comprehensive plan for the future of East Timor. But we should know that without sufficient funding it will be virtually impossible to implement successfully even the best-laid plans. The maintenance of security and the building of a sustainable administrative and economic structure in East Timor depend on this.

We thus call on the donor community to intensify its efforts to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the growing needs of East Timor. With crises in other parts of the world, and the international community's attention riveted to the war on terrorism, we hope that East Timor will not be relegated to the background or, worse, forgotten in the scramble for assistance and support at this critical time. The international community should not fail to respond to the aspirations of the East Timorese, who deserve, at the very least, our continued support and active encouragement. The people of East Timor have earned the right to freedom and independence. We cannot let them down.

Attaining independence in East Timor is no small achievement. But it cannot be the final chapter of the United Nations exit strategy for East Timor.

The Philippines supports the further extension of UNTAET's mandate until the declaration of independence in East Timor on 20 May. We also express our broad support for the proposed framework for the successor mission to UNTAET and in this regard look forward to its further elaboration by the Secretary-General. We urge the Security Council to accept these recommendations.

In the meantime, the Philippines remains committed to participating in United Nations efforts in East Timor and to supporting the East Timorese people in their historic endeavour.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Indonesia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Widodo (Indonesia): Let me begin by extending my delegation's felicitations to you, Sir, for presiding over the deliberations of the Security Council in this month of January. It is also a pleasure for my delegation to congratulate Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic, which became members of the Security Council on 1 January this year. We are fully confident that the new members will provide valuable contributions to the work of the Council.

I should also like to join previous speakers in welcoming the presence in our midst of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, and of the Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. José Ramos-Horta.

Having listened with keen interest to their insightful briefings on the challenges and opportunities that have arisen during East Timor's transitional period, leading up to the historic moment of independence and preparations for a successor mission to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), my delegation would like to emphasize how important it is for the international community, including Indonesia, to focus its concerted attention on the future of East Timor as it embarks on its journey to nationhood in May this year, and beyond.

Indonesia's commitment and support in this regard need no further reiteration. Indonesia and UNTAET have jointly engaged in various productive bilateral talks since the last meeting of the Council. Seizing the initiative once again, we have now scheduled talks at the ministerial level with the representatives of UNTAET and East Timor, to be held in Bali on 25 February 2002, and to be followed the next day by a trilateral ministerial meeting between Indonesia, UNTAET and East Timor, and Australia. In my Government's view, these talks provide the most appropriate forum for exploring ways and means to resolve the outstanding and wider issues of interest to the parties.

Since October last, there have been encouraging developments with respect to the issues of refugees, security, justice and reconciliation. With the prevailing atmosphere of calm and stability in the border area, the number of refugee returns has been steadily rising since October 1999, to date totalling more than 190,000 East Timorese. Motivated by this environment of normalcy, Indonesia's Regional Military

Commander in Udayana decided to withdraw two battalions of the army from the East Nusa Tengara province.

My Government has consistently called for resolving the refugee issue once and for all, because not only has the refugees' prolonged presence caused disharmony with the local population in East Nusa Tengara, but also because, as time marches on, the issue will become increasingly complex and harder to deal with. More important, however, is the fact that to leave the refugees to an uncertain fate is indeed a violation of their fundamental human rights. Bearing in mind the upcoming presidential election and the nation's subsequent independence, it is a matter of the highest priority that they become active participants, along with the rest of their countrymen, in these momentous and fundamental processes and thereby determine the future of their own country.

It was with this in mind that the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations launched a Joint Appeal on East Timorese refugees on 27 November last, in Jakarta. It is expected that through this endeavour around 60,000 refugees could be repatriated this year. Through this body, my delegation appeals to donor countries and institutions to contribute generously to these efforts. Indeed, support for the Joint Appeal is singularly urgent, as my Government has, as of 1 January this year, discontinued the assistance which had been provided since September 2000.

Nonetheless, Indonesia will continue to make provisions, within its modest means, for vulnerable groups and emergency situations until 30 April 2002, when the camps will finally be closed. Hence, this is a crucial period, during which the refugees will have to finally decide on the options offered by my Government: whether to accept repatriation before their country's imminent independence or to join Indonesia's resettlement programme.

Moreover, Indonesia and United Nations agencies continue to enhance coordination on voluntary repatriation such as encouraging a "go and see" visit. A special fund has also been established to alleviate any insecurity relating to the pension benefits of former Indonesian government employees who have returned to, or will live in, East Timor. Within its limited capabilities, Indonesia will make a contribution of $2 million towards that fund.

Simultaneously, reconciliation is an important component in post-conflict circumstances, including in encouraging the repatriation of refugees. In this respect, we were gratified by the dialogue session held by Mr. Xanana Gusmão with some 1,000 East Timorese, predominantly pro-autonomy supporters, on 3 November last. Just last week, Mr. Gusmão reiterated that the new Government of East Timor would ensure their safety if they returned to their homeland. My delegation can only underscore the importance of such reconciliation initiatives, and it earnestly hopes that the international community will lend this process its full support.

It is also pertinent to note that the Indonesian military and United Nations peacekeeping forces have been working in close cooperation and coordination, leading to more favourable conditions along the border. The third meeting of the East Timor-Indonesia Joint Border Committee took place from 19 to 21 November 2001 in Dili, and negotiations are expected to continue in the near future. Meanwhile, both sides have agreed to a joint border reconnaissance next month. My Government will continue to provide the assistance deemed necessary in this regard and hopes that all parties will support this effort in the same spirit as it is being given.

Pursuant to Indonesia's assurances that justice would be upheld, Presidential Decree No. 6/M/2002 was issued on 12 January 2002 regarding the appointment of 18 judges to the Ad Hoc Human Rights Court as a follow-up to the Presidential Decree issued last year to expand the jurisdiction of the Ad Hoc Human Rights Court. The Ad Hoc Court is expected to commence its work next month.

With regard to the Atambua cases, Indonesia's Supreme Court has overruled the decisions of the District Court of North Jakarta, as well as those of the High Court of Jakarta, with regard to the six perpetrators, and their sentences ranging from 10 to 20 months have been reset at from 5 to 7 years. While welcoming this development, my Government fully respects the independence of the national judicial system.

To conclude, this significant meeting of the Security Council merits profound introspection regarding the future of East Timor and the new objectives of the successor mission following the end

of UNTAET's mandate in May 2002, provided the new Government consents to this.

The President: I shall now give the floor to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello to make a few, very brief remarks.

Mr. Vieira de Mello: For the sake of brevity, I will also speak on behalf of José Ramos-Horta.

I would like first to thank all the speakers for their generous words addressed to my colleagues, to the second Transitional Government and other Timorese institutions, not least the Constituent Assembly. Whatever our joint achievements, they would not have been possible without the unfailing and unanimous support of this Council over the last 27 months. We thank the Council for the unanimous support it has expressed for UNTAET's mandate extension until independence. With regard to the successor mission, we welcome the approval in principle of the concept outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, as well as the support expressed by many speakers for the civilian positions in core areas that the Secretary-General proposed be funded from the assessed budget of the United Nations.

With regard to the request made by some speakers that the Secretary-General present specific proposals in his next report — his end-of-mission report — for the successor presence of the United Nations in East Timor, we have taken note with great attention of the suggestions formulated here by many delegations, in particular by the Russian Federation and France.

I would like to confirm to the representative of Guinea that, indeed, we shall be convening a last donors conference in Dili about 10 days before the country becomes independent, a donors meeting to which we will be presenting the outcome of the work being carried out by the Planning Commission. That outcome should be a mid-term development strategy for East Timor, which is what, I believe, the representatives had in mind.

Finally, on the comments that were made on a variety of topics, I would like to say that we have not only taken them into account in the past. We will continue to do so in the future because we definitely share those observations, in particular those made about the extension of the mandate of the Constituent Assembly and the good use this extension should be put to in refining the text of the first constitution of East Timor with regard to the presidential election, the justice system, the truth and reconciliation commission, economic development, as well as the situation of the remaining refugees in West Timor.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Council and Ministers very sincerely, on behalf of José Ramos-Horta and the second Transitional Government he represents here today, for the support and solidarity extended to us by this Council in the course of today's debate, which will serve as strong encouragement to all of us, particularly the people of East Timor, in the final phase of the transition to independence of a territory the Council tasked us to administer and steer.

I thank you, Minister Gayan, for presiding over this meeting today, and, through you, we extend our gratitude to Ambassador Koonjul and his team for the keen interest and sympathy they have demonstrated in the preparations for this debate of the Security Council on East Timor.

The President: I thank Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello for his kind words.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4463

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4463rd meeting

Thursday, 31 January 2002, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Gayan	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mrs. d'Achon
	Guinea	Mr. Fall
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Mexico	Mr. De Alba
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Ms. Foo
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2002/80 and Corr.1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-23809 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (S/2002/80 and Corr.1)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in East Timor, documents S/2002/80 and Corr.1.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2002/130, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1392 (2002).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4464

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4464th meeting

Thursday, 31 January 2002, 3.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Gayan	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mrs. d'Achon
	Guinea	Mr. Fall
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Mexico	Mr. De Alba
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Ms. Foo
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/88)

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02-23815 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/88)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2002/88, which contains the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2002/133, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1393 (2002).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4465

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4465th meeting

Thursday, 31 January 2002, 3.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Gayan	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Fall
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Mexico	Mr. De Alba
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Ms. Foo
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

The situation in Africa

Letter dated 10 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2002/46)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

02-23821 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Africa

Letter dated 10 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2002/46)

The President: The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Amara Essy, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as well as the Ministers who participated in the public meeting on the situation in Africa on 29 January 2002 for their invaluable contributions to the debate on the situation in Africa.

"The Security Council reaffirms the principles of political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States and their obligation to settle their dispute by peaceful means.

"The Security Council, recalling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security as well as the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, underscores the importance of partnership and enhanced coordination and cooperation, based on complementarity and comparative advantage, between the United Nations, the OAU and subregional organizations in Africa in the promotion of regional peace and stability. It welcomes the decision of the OAU Summit held in Lusaka in July 2001 to undertake a review of the structures, procedures and working methods of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR). It emphasizes the importance of enhanced cooperation and of ensuring better coordination between the United Nations and the OAU with the view to achieving a lasting solution to conflicts. In this regard, it requests the Secretary-General to encourage the United Nations Liaison Office to the OAU in Addis Ababa to interact more closely with the OAU Mechanism for CPMR on the conflicts in Africa. The Security Council expresses its readiness to deepen its cooperation with the OAU and subregional organizations and invite them to inform it at the earliest possible stage over their decisions and initiatives that could have implications relating to its responsibilities under the Charter.

"The Security Council calls on the United Nations system to intensify its cooperation, including assistance within existing resources, to the OAU and subregional organizations in Africa in the field of capacity-building, particularly in early warning conflict prevention and peacekeeping. It also stresses the importance of effective interaction between the United Nations system and the OAU and subregional organizations through the exchange of information and analysis at the conflict prevention stage; coordination and clear understanding of respective roles in forwarding peace processes; and coordinated support to national and regional peace-building efforts. In this regard, the Security Council welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Office in West Africa and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures for that Office to be fully operational.

"The Security Council notes with satisfaction that good offices missions carried out by prominent political leaders of Africa facilitated significant progress in the political settlement of certain conflicts. It encourages the OAU and subregional organizations, taking into account the specific situation of conflicts, to seek appointment of such figures as Special Envoys as well as to employ, where appropriate, the traditional methods of conflict resolution, including the establishment of Councils of Elders. The Security Council stresses the importance of the preventive character of such efforts and emphasizes the need for their proper

coordination. The Security Council stresses the specific needs of women and children in peace processes and encourages the strengthening of the role of women and youth in the search for solutions to conflicts in Africa.

"The Security Council encourages the ongoing efforts undertaken by the international community in addressing the root causes of conflicts in Africa, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflicts and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (S/1998/318). The Security Council, bearing in mind the linkages between conflicts in Africa and, inter alia, poverty and development, the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and social exclusion as a source of intra-State conflicts, reaffirms its continued commitment in addressing these problems and encourages the OAU, as well as subregional organizations and international financial institutions, to do likewise. The Security Council stresses that the early resumption of international cooperation and development aid to countries where a peace process is being implemented is of critical importance for the success of this peace process and further stresses the importance of the role of the donor community and international financial institutions in this regard.

"The Security Council stresses that good governance, democracy, the rule of law, and the respect of human rights and the fight against poverty are essential for peace, stability and sustainable development in Africa. It also stresses the importance of national reconciliation through dialogue in respective countries. It expresses its strong support to the decisions of the OAU Heads of State and Government at the Algiers Summit held in 1999 denying recognition to Governments that come to power through unconstitutional means and notes with satisfaction that this decision is being implemented. It reaffirms that resolution of conflicts in Africa requires, above all, the political will and courage of the parties themselves to seek peace.

"The Security Council expresses concern over the effects of conflicts on civilian populations, including violations of human rights, in particular those affecting the most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, women and children. It emphasizes the responsibility of States concerned to put an end to impunity and prosecute those responsible for such acts.

"The Security Council underlines the need to address the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons, which, in addition to humanitarian consequences, constitute a burden on the affected countries and which may become a source of conflict. It notes the shortfall in funding for refugee and internally displaced persons programmes in Africa and reiterates its call upon the international community to provide such programmes with the necessary financial resources, taking into account the substantial needs in Africa.

"The Security Council, recalling its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000, inter alia recognizing that the HIV/AIDS pandemic is also exacerbated by the conditions of violence and instability and constitutes a potential risk to stability and security, reiterates that the pandemic, if unchecked, may pose a risk to stability and security. The Council urges the international community and donors to coordinate their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in the process of conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building, and notes the lack of adequate resources for effective reintegration programmes. In this regard, it urges the international community to support such programmes, including through the implementation of quick-impact projects.

"The Security Council notes that African States can contribute to peace and security in the continent by implementing transparency and confidence-building measures. In this regard, the Security Council reiterates its call on all States to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

"The Security Council welcomes the participation of the Economic and Social Council

(ECOSOC) in its public meeting on the situation in Africa on 29 January 2002. It reaffirms the importance of strengthening its cooperation, through greater interaction, with the ECOSOC, in accordance with Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the area of the prevention of armed conflicts, including in addressing economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems. The Security Council, taking note of the time it devotes to discussing African conflicts and the specificity of the problems of Africa, underlines that economic rehabilitation and reconstruction constitute important elements in the long-term development of post-conflict societies and the maintenance of lasting peace and calls for greater international assistance in this regard. The Security Council expresses its resolve to seek to establish the political conditions for non-recurrence of a particular conflict before withdrawing any peacekeeping operation.

"The Security Council commends and supports the efforts of African countries within the framework of the fight against international terrorism.

"The Security Council welcomes the ongoing transformation of the OAU into the African Union and encourages and supports the principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to create the conditions for development and to enhance economic integration in Africa. It recognizes that sound economic policies will further enhance peace and stability in the region. It calls upon the donor countries and the Bretton Woods institutions to continue assisting Africa in implementing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiatives and to work with African Governments, through the NEPAD, to create the necessary conditions to attract and mobilize public and private sector resources in support of economic growth and poverty reduction.

"The Security Council notes the usefulness of its meeting with the Secretary-General of OAU and stresses the importance of holding such consultations on a regular basis, at least once a year, in the future.

"The Security Council recognizes the need for adequate measures to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa and will consider the setting up of an ad hoc Working Group to monitor the above recommendations and to enhance coordination with ECOSOC."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2002/2.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4466

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4466th meeting

Thursday, 31 January 2002, 3.45 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Koonjul	(Mauritius)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Tafrov
	Cameroon	Mr. Belinga-Eboutou
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Guinea	Mr. Fall
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Mexico	Mr. Aguilar Zinser
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Ms. Foo
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mekdad
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Williamson

Agenda

Wrap-up discussion on the work of the Security Council for the current month

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02-23827 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Wrap-up discussion on the work of the Security Council for the current month

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

As this is a wrap-up meeting, by definition we are supposed to take stock of what we have done during the month, or what we have not done, or what we would have liked to have achieved. This exercise can also be an opportunity to evaluate the way in which the Council has conducted its business during the month. In that connection, I invite members to comment on all the issues that we have dealt with during the month, and also to comment on the manner in which these issues have been dealt with. I also invite the comments of members on how we can improve upon what we have not been able to achieve during the month.

For this meeting we do not have a list of speakers, and I invite those who wish to take the floor to raise their hands.

I would now like to make a very brief statement on how we have seen our own presidency before I open the floor to Council members.

The programme of work of the Security Council for the month of January has been determined mainly by the exigencies imposed by previous decisions of the Security Council. The Council renewed the mandates of four peacekeeping operations, examined 11 reports of the Secretary-General and adopted seven resolutions and two presidential statements. We also issued 12 press statements on various issues discussed during the month.

While the attention of the international community continues to be occupied with the situations in Afghanistan and the Middle East, as well as with the threats posed by terrorism to international peace and security, the programme of work for the month of January attempted to strike a balance in its approach by addressing these issues in an adequate manner and, at the same time, refocusing attention on conflict situations in Africa and elsewhere.

We are pleased that the public meeting on the situation in Africa, with the participation for the first time of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), attracted several ministers from both member and non-member countries of the Council. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those delegations that participated in the meeting, in particular those ministers from member and non-member countries of the Council who travelled to New York for the occasion.

It is our hope that the presidential statement which we have just adopted will serve as a basis for greater and more effective interaction between the Security Council and the OAU. We also hope that succeeding presidencies will continue this focus on African issues by taking a global and holistic approach, and we are grateful in this regard that the United Kingdom delegation has already announced that it will do so during its presidency in July.

I invite members to comment on the open briefing by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, which took place on 18 January. Their comments could focus on whether that meeting was useful and on how we can further the work both of the Security Council and of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to attain the goals we set ourselves in resolution 1373 (2001).

During this month we also remained engaged and committed with respect to the situation in Afghanistan. We had our regular briefings; we lifted sanctions against Ariana Afghan Airlines; we were able to unfreeze the assets of the Central Bank of Afghanistan. Yesterday's address by Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Afghanistan Interim Authority, stressed once again how important the continued involvement of the Security Council is to the Afghan people in their quest for peace and stability.

At the beginning of the month we had said too that we would try to promote transparency in our work. One of the ways we did that was by setting up a web site on which we provided daily summaries of meetings and consultations of the Security Council. Members of the Council may wish to comment on whether that was useful or whether it could be further improved to make our work more transparent. In the same vein, I am very glad that the public meeting on the situation in Africa was broadcast live through a United Nations webcast. That was indeed a technological breakthrough which

allowed the whole world to follow the business of the Security Council. It is probably too easy to find out whether this was well received, but it would be interesting to find out whether this kind of service could be of use in the future to promote transparency in the work of the Council.

During this month we were also able to pursue discussion of some issues relating to the documentation and procedures of the Security Council. We spent quite a bit of time both at ambassadorial and experts level to review the format and the content of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. This shows that it is possible, with good will, to have discussions on issues that may appear to be difficult. We are glad that on this issue we are, almost, near agreement and that we will be able to have something ready for next month.

During several past wrap-up meetings, we have laid emphasis on the need for the Council to interact with non-members of the Council in order to share views on issues before the Council. Members of the Council may wish to comment on the format we adopted during the debate on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, whereby we heard three members of the Council, then three representatives of non-Council States, and had Sir Jeremy Greenstock intervene after every six or so speakers. Our aim was to promote some kind of interactive dialogue. I would like to get the views of members on whether that was successful and on whether it might be encouraged in the future. We were also able during January to have two short but very interesting meetings on the format of future wrap-up meetings; even here we seem to be moving towards some consensus. We hope that we will be able to try the new format — on which, again, there is near-consensus — next month.

During this month we were also able to start regular briefings on the situation in the Middle East, a subject which had remained in the footnote of the Council's programme for far too long. The briefing by Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process, was, I hope, extremely useful, because we were able to get first-hand information from somebody who has actually been operating in the field.

We are also very grateful that the President of the Economic and Social Council was able to respond to our invitation to participate in the public meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa. We hope that this participation heralds a new era of cooperation and coordination in addressing issues of international peace and security, in particular the post-conflict peace-building components of peace-building initiatives. The interaction between these two major organs of the United Nations had long been awaited. Members of the Council may wish to address this matter and to suggest ways in which we can improve the relationship between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The work of the Council during the month of January proceeded, in our view, without too much pressure: we had only one evening sitting. That was possible thanks mainly to the cooperation and support extended by everyone here to me and my team during the month. I will reserve my vote of thanks until everybody else has spoken.

I now open the floor to those members who wish to speak.

Mr. Strømmen (Norway): Let me, first of all, congratulate you, Sir, on the excellent manner in which you have conducted the presidency of the Security Council during the month of January 2002. You deserve our heartfelt thanks. We have chosen to highlight briefly three points relating to the work of the Council this month.

First, we welcome the focus on African issues, notably reflected in the comprehensive public debate on 29 January and in the decision to dispatch a Security Council mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea next month in support of the peace process between those two neighbouring countries. I am pleased to confirm that preparations for the mission are well under way in close cooperation with the parties.

Secondly, we commend you, Sir, for the transparency exercise undertaken during the month.

Finally, I ask your indulgence, Sir, and wish to reiterate the desirability of brevity in our interventions in order to facilitate a businesslike and interactive meeting culture in the Council. We must be able to encourage openness and transparency and at the same time to make meetings in the Chamber and in the consultation room as businesslike and result-oriented as possible.

Mr. Valdivieso (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I take this opportunity, Sir, to convey to you and your

team our appreciation for the very skilful way in which you have guided our work, as well as for your commitment. I shall heed the recommendation that we should speak briefly, perhaps for only three minutes.

My first comment relates to our public meeting on Africa. It was a timely, useful debate with excellent participation from the membership of the Organization. Here, the delegation of Mauritius deserves special commendation.

I have two points to make regarding the future. The first is that we should perhaps narrow the focus of our debate on the African continent to a few specific points that could in turn be set out in a more concrete manner in a presidential statement. Secondly, we are glad there has been an agreement about creating the ad hoc working group to follow up on the African situation and the topics of the presidential statement, as well as on working in coordination with the Economic and Social Council. During the year that organ will examine the creation of a special advisory group to meet the needs of countries emerging from conflict, and we enthusiastically welcome the intention of the British delegation to take up this matter again during its presidency in July.

I would also like to say something about the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and about resolution 1390 (2002), which spells out the mandate of the Committee established under resolution 1267 (1999). It clearly emerged during the open meeting this month that the Counter-Terrorism Committee has been advancing in a quiet and perhaps somewhat invisible, but intensive manner. It is having a considerable effect on the maintenance of international peace and security. The members of the Council are dedicating considerable time and effort, and certainly have done so throughout the month of January, to accomplish a task that should be duly appreciated by the international community. The adoption of resolution 1390 (2002) opened up a new modality for the Council, because, in practice, it established the only sanctions regime that is not linked to a specific territory or country, but rather has global application. That is why its implementation will require new mechanisms, and we will have to discuss substantive topics never before tackled in the Council. I would offer as an example the discussion of the procedure to elaborate in a flexible manner the lists of individuals, entities or organizations involved in international terrorism without diminishing the flexibility of action that is required.

I would like to conclude by highlighting the importance of this wrap-up exercise. We should not measure its impact only by the size of the audience, which is again small. With this only criterion, we would have to reach the absurd conclusion that other public meetings regularly held on other topics on the Council's agenda should be eliminated, because they do not draw a massive number of representatives of non-members of the Council. This exercise leaves a record of our individual vision of the work of the month, and this in itself is very important. We hope that in the future we will agree on procedures and content that will be enthusiastically welcomed by all members of the Council and by a greater number of non-members as well.

The President: I thank the representative of Colombia for his kind words.

I would like to inform members that this is the last Council meeting that Ambassador Shen of China is attending with us. I would like to offer him, on behalf of all the members of the Council and on my own behalf, our very best wishes for continued success. He has been the Deputy Permanent Representative of China, and he will be departing from New York very shortly. I know that I am speaking on behalf of all members when I express the hope to be able to see him again in New York in either an official or unofficial capacity. We all look forward to that opportunity.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would first like to thank you, Mr. President, for the good wishes that you have expressed to me just now.

With regard to this month's work, the month has been a very fruitful one. The President made a very comprehensive plan for the month's work. While promoting transparency, he also tried his best to guarantee the efficiency of our work.

The Security Council successfully carried out its work for this month, thanks to the efficient efforts of the President and the work of the Mauritius delegation. In particular, the programme of work of the last week fully demonstrates the capacity of the President for coordination and leadership.

The Security Council held a public meeting on the situation in Africa, which demonstrates the importance the Security Council attaches to the problem of Africa, and which also strengthens the communication between regional organizations such as

the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations. We hope that the broad consensus reached on how to resolve the issues of peace and development in Africa can be quickly translated into concrete actions. The issue of Africa should be a priority matter on the agenda of the Security Council. In the future, we hope that we can further strengthen the communication between the OAU, other regional organizations and the United Nations.

The President also arranged a timely open meeting to hear the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its work and future work plan. At the same time, it was an opportunity to get a sense from the broader membership of what it expects from the Committee. This is no doubt very beneficial for the next stage of work of the Committee.

The question of Afghanistan was also a focus of the this month's work. The Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority, Mr. Karzai, spent only a short time in the Security Council, but his presence was very significant. We fully support the statement made by the President on behalf of the full membership, and we hope that the next President will continue to be seized of the situation in Afghanistan.

Of course, there is still the regrettably unresolved issue of the conflict between Palestine and Israel. Yesterday's discussion of it was far from sufficient. We hope that the Security Council will expand its involvement in and give greater attention to this issue so that it can play a greater role. It would be a pity if the Security Council could not play a greater role on that question, which affects the security of the region and the world.

This is the last time that I will be taking the floor here as the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Chinese delegation to the United Nations. I have worked here for the past four years, during which time my collaboration with colleagues here in the Council has left me with good memories. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all my colleagues for having extended to me and to my delegation their support and cooperation.

Finally, again I would like to thank you, Sir, for the good wishes expressed to me just now.

The President: I thank the representative of China for his very kind words and for the words of wisdom that he had for the members of the Council before he leaves. We wish him all the very best.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Sir, for the excellent way that you have presided over the Council in the month of January. I would also like to bid farewell, but not adieu, to our colleague, Ambassador Shen. Goodbye. We are certain we shall see you again.

Ambassador Levitte would have liked to be able to come here today, because, like many members of the Council, he would have wished our monthly wrap-up to be more interactive to be attended by more representatives. Fortunately, we have here the Permanent Representative of Namibia, a former member of the Council, who certainly would have had some interesting comments to make. The Ambassador of Jamaica, who just left the Chamber, would have liked to stay, and I believe would have done so, if she could have taken the floor. But I understand that under the presidency of Mexico we will be able to have a true interactive debate, limited to certain points. And each statement should be limited — as our colleague from Norway recalled — to three minutes. So I shall try to do so with my watch. Three minutes means three points.

My first point is on the fight against terrorism. Ambassador Greenstock has in fact given us a good format for interaction with the non-members of the Council. I think it is a good example. We should repeat this type of interactive meeting with non-members of the Council, for example, next month, on the question of Afghanistan. I know that many non-members of the Council wish to be able to have an exchange of views with Mr. Brahimi, and we will shortly have the opportunity to have him here in New York.

My second point is on Africa. We had an excellent debate on Africa. It was summed up very well at the end by Mr. Ibrahima Fall. With respect to Africa, we have taken note that we will have an opportunity to come back to the issue of targeted and limited sanctions. Also during the debate on Africa, France announced it would soon put forward a proposal for creating a permanent mechanism on sanctions. From the debate on Africa, we should also retain everyone's wish for good cooperation on the peace processes between all the donors and the Security Council. We will soon hold, during the United Kingdom's presidency, a meeting with the Economic and Social

Council on the peace-building process. When we discuss East Timor, perhaps in April, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will participate in order to have good interaction among all the Council's partners in peace-building.

My third point is on the Middle East. We kept our commitment to have a meeting on the Middle East in January. It was held yesterday with Mr. Roed-Larsen. We have a press statement available on the web site of the presidency of the Security Council. We must continue, and the question of the Middle East must be dealt with by the Council on a very regular basis. I hope that I did not exceed my three minutes.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of France for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria) (*spoke in French*): I would also like to join those who have expressed to Ambassador Shen best wishes for success in his next mission, wherever that takes him, and we hope to see him again soon in New York.

Today's debate has confirmed the auspicious trend towards brevity, which leads me to confine myself to a few essential points.

The most important thing is to thank you, Sir, for your brilliant presidency. It was a tremendous success. You have managed to be efficient while making newly elected members like us feel at ease in the Council. My delegation and I sincerely thank you for that.

The Council's work in the month of January was largely focused on crisis situations in Africa, which is to be welcomed. The public debate on the situation in Africa was a success. The presence of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Amara Essy, among us was an important feature. The presence of ministers of both members and non-members of the Council was a success. Bulgaria's Minister for Foreign Affairs greatly regretted not being able to attend because of an important bilateral commitment. The Council's meeting enabled us to exchange ideas on strategies for strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The fight against terrorism rightly occupied a central place in the Council's activities this month, and substantial work was carried out by the Committee, especially on the review of the country reports pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001). In this regard, we would like to underline the transparent and effective approach of the work done by the Committee's Bureau, particularly by the British chairmanship of the Committee. I would once again like to pay tribute to Sir Jeremy Greenstock for his remarkable work. The public debate on terrorism was a clear success, especially due to the chosen format, which was a positive innovation worth using on other occasions.

Bulgaria is gratified that the Council reacted quickly and appropriately to the situation in Afghanistan. The rapid adoption of resolution 1390 (2002) constitutes a success for the Council and the international community.

My country welcomes consensus in the Council on the resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you particularly, Mr. President, for including the issue of Kosovo on the Council's agenda this month. We are pleased that the presidency held a public debate. My country feels it is important that the Council continue closely following the situation in Kosovo on a regular basis at a time when the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo is at a critical point in carrying out its mandate. The recent appointment of Mr. Michael Steiner as Special Representative of the Secretary-General, given his skill and experience, gives us hope for the consolidation of peace and stability in Kosovo.

The President: I thank the representative of Bulgaria for his kind words addressed to me and my team.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): I join in the tributes that have been paid to Ambassador Shen. Over the last three and a half years, he has become not only a good colleague but a good friend as well. I, personally, will miss him.

Mr. President, congratulations on a very good month. The output of the Council should not be measured simply by quantity but by quality, too. I think that this month we have not done badly. We, too, were pleased with the open debate on Africa and particularly pleased to have with us at the table the President of the Economic and Social Council.

As Baroness Amos indicated, we will be making Africa a major theme of our presidency in July. We may not follow quite the same format, since, although imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, it does not always work best. But I took good note of what Ambassador Valdivieso had to say about making the focus a little bit more precise. Over the next few months, we will be refining our ideas, and we will hope to have a good package ready to submit by the time our presidency starts.

I would like to make two other points. I do not really think it is for the United Kingdom delegation to comment on the counter-terrorism briefing. I would say that others who have spoken to us found it useful. I think it has been a deliberate effort of our collective strategy to be as inclusive as possible about the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in respect of the wider membership. I have to say that I personally was very pleased to see the regional emphasis that came out in some of the statements. I think that has a direct bearing on the remarks that Ambassador Strømmen was making about the need to try to think about how we can keep our statements short and our public meetings effective. I think that is one useful lesson that one can perhaps draw, even if it is not directly applicable to all other circumstances.

Finally, I would not like the review of the month to go by without mentioning the work of the Working Group on peacekeeping, on which we came to a major decision this month. There is still a lot to do in terms of other issues on the Working Group's agenda, though I hope we will now be able to make the new arrangements in respect of troop-contributors' work. I wish Ambassador Strømmen the best of luck in his new incarnation as Chairman of the Working Group. We will be cooperating with him fully.

The President: I thank Ambassador Eldon for his kind words addressed to the Chair.

Mr. Fall (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): My delegation would like to associate itself with the good wishes that the Council has expressed for Ambassador Shen, who is leaving us, and to say how much we have appreciated his wisdom and his contribution in the work of the Council.

I would like to say, Mr. President, how much my delegation has appreciated the work done by your delegation this month. My delegation has just completed its first month as a member of the Council and, thanks to your openness, we have been able to assess the course that we will be taking together.

My delegation particularly appreciated the fact that, under your presidency, Sir, we discussed many issues relating to Africa — indeed, almost all of the African questions — on the Council's agenda. Above all, you deserve the credit for your inspired decision to organize a public debate on the situation in Africa. That meeting, which was a great success, demonstrated the great interest that Member States have in Africa. The meeting enabled us to consolidate our respective approaches to Africa, provide diagnoses and identify current problems, as well as to share our hopes. We hope that the important elements contained in the presidential statement that resulted from that historic meeting will be duly considered and taken into account by the Secretariat, as well as by the Council itself, so that we can bolster our partnership with African institutions: the Organization of African Unity — in particular its Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution — and subregional organizations.

We all agree that peace and security must be restored and consolidated in Africa so that that continent can take up the challenge of development. You deserve a great deal of credit, Sir, and my delegation would like to very warmly congratulate you.

Secondly, my delegation welcomes the format of the debate that you organized on counter-terrorism. The interactive dialogue that was employed on that occasion in the discussion among members and non-members of the Council, as well as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, was very useful. It enabled all Member States to take the pulse of and assess the remarkable work done by the Committee, and I would like to congratulate you for that, Mr. President.

Another issue is the question of the Middle East. The Council has just taken the innovative step of organizing a briefing on the question of the Middle East. That wise decision was implemented during your presidency, Sir, and we had a very useful exchange on recent developments in the situation in the Middle East.

On the questions of procedure and documentation, the Council was not able — as Ambassador Mahbubani would have liked — to complete its work. Some progress was made. Let us

hope that the Council will soon be able to reach agreement on that point.

In conclusion, I would like to say once again how much my delegation has appreciated the work that you accomplished, Sir, as President during the month of January and tell you how greatly we have benefited from it.

The President: I thank the representative of Guinea for his kind words addressed to me and to my delegation.

Mr. Corr (Ireland): I would like first to join my colleagues in expressing our appreciation to Ambassador Shen Guofang for his work on the Council and to wish him well in his new assignment. We look forward to seeing him again.

Secondly, on behalf of my delegation, I would like very warmly to thank Mauritius for what we thought was an outstanding presidency this month with regard to the substance of the issues we addressed, the clarity of focus that the presidency brought and the way in which we addressed important issues, such as the meetings on counter-terrorism and on Africa. For all of those reasons, we thought that this was a presidency of real achievement. We also appreciated the courtesy and openness of the presidency and everyone on the Mauritian team to other members of the Council, as well as the wider membership.

With regard to the wrap-up, my delegation has always taken the view that these discussions are very useful exercises. They are important on their own merits because they provide a chance once a month to stand back and look at the wider picture. They are important because of the engagement of the Council with the wider United Nations membership. There is one caveat; as you, Mr. President, pointed out, each month the presidency, of course, sets the background to many issues through the manner in which it approaches the agenda, and so it is important in looking at the wrap-up exercise also to bear in mind how we approach the issue of continuity — the complexity of issues. For that reason, my delegation would support — and we have been discussing this in the Council in recent weeks — a more interactive approach to the wrap-up debate, with involvement of the wider United Nations membership and a strong thematic focus in terms of the issues that we address. But the wrap-up opportunity is important, and we think it should be built on.

In terms of the past month, I would like to make two or three broad points. Ireland welcomed the policy of openness which the presidency brought this month to our work. We had very useful public meetings on Kosovo, terrorism, East Timor and, of course, Africa. Openness and transparency serve a dual purpose. On the one hand, transparency is important for its own sake and for a level of engagement with the wider United Nations membership. But, from the point of view of the Council, there is also the important point that it is a listening opportunity, and many of the points made are in turn integrated into our own work. A balance must always be struck — as Ambassador Strømmen said — between what Walter Bagehot would have called the efficient and the dignified elements of how structures work. The efficient element is, of course, the need for workability, coherence and coordination, while at the same time showing openness to the views of the wider membership, as well as the United Nations family of institutions, in terms of the insights that they bring to the different issues and to the agenda of the Council.

On the substantive issues before us this month, my delegation regarded two in particular as being of great importance. We found the open debate on the situation in Africa to be enormously valuable, partly because of the strong level of representation by ministers from Africa and elsewhere, partly because of the quality of the contributions to the debate and partly because this is a moment of transition in Africa and one of real hope, as a result of the transition of the Organization of African Unity to the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Other contributing factors were the Council's own work in the area of addressing issues of conflict and conflict resolution and the OAU's increasing engagement in Africa in these areas.

All of this meant that the debate was marked by a real sense of new beginnings. One important issue that did come out — Minister O'Donnell from Ireland also emphasized this point — was the interlinkage between conflict prevention and development cooperation issues. Development funds, the issue of debt, the issue of trade opening for African countries — it is not possible, in our view, to address one set of issues without the other. This was a point that came very strongly across in the contributions made in the debate and, indeed, it is reflected strongly in the presidential

statement that we just adopted and which we very much welcome.

Two other issues that did come up in the debate were the importance of coherence in terms of the United Nations role in the wider international community and how issues are addressed in relation to conflict prevention and development. My delegation has consistently argued that there is a need for a closer working relationship with, in particular, the Economic and Social Council. We therefore welcome the reference in the presidential statement to the consideration that will be given to setting up an ad hoc working group. We think this is important because the Economic and Social Council, in its own Charter domain, has a strong role in areas of development and coordination. The Council, as it addresses issues of conflict, peace and security, needs to have an interlocutor with which we can mutually consider the differing roles in these areas. So we think that was important.

The other issue that we found very helpful this month in terms of the agenda was, of course, the debate on counter-terrorism. It was an important debate partly because of the importance of having a genuinely interactive dialogue between the Council and the wider United Nations membership on where we are now in terms of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The way the presidency structured the debate by alternating members of the Council with others we found to be especially useful.

On this, I would also — as other speakers have done — wish to pay tribute to Ambassador Greenstock for the way he has approached the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee through the briefings of Member States and others. This has created a very broad understanding, which was reflected in the debate on the way ahead in terms of the operation of the Committee.

Finally, other issues of importance during the month were, of course, the emphasis on African issues generally in terms of particular situations, such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and so on. We also welcomed the opportunity to have the open debate on East Timor and the briefings on Afghanistan. We especially welcomed yesterday's consultations on the Middle East and look forward to seeing that continued. We also welcomed the number of meetings with the troop contributors, which you, Sir, mentioned in your opening remarks, and the agreement on the new mechanism for consultation to be chaired by Ambassador Strømmen, which we regard as important.

In conclusion, both in terms of the presidency's programme of work and how it was handled and of the openness to differing views and to the wider membership, we thought this was a month of very real achievement and very much appreciated it.

The President: I thank the representative of Ireland for his very kind words addressed to me and to the Mauritian team.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like to join in the expressions of thanks and appreciation made by previous speakers. I pay special tribute to the Foreign Minister of Mauritius for his generous contribution not only to the meeting devoted to the situation in Africa, but also during the discussion and adoption of some important decisions in the Security Council. We believe that his presence imparted greater importance and emphasis to those debates and decisions.

We also wish to thank your entire team, Sir, for the way in which it assumed the responsibilities of leading the work of the Council and of consulting other members. It is difficult to underline all the important missions you have undertaken since assuming the presidency of the Council. They have indeed been numerous and great. I shall try my best, while seeking to avoid repeating what other speakers have said, to stress the most important among them so as to point to those issues that are of the greatest interest.

Obviously, this is Syria's first month as a Council member and we feel that this meeting is the right opportunity to assess it. We believe that it was a rich and productive month, thanks to careful planning by the presidency and to the fact that all points of view represented on this Council were taken into account. I must say that we are satisfied by the work undertaken by the Security Council, particularly vis-à-vis the situation in Africa and the importance accorded to that issue. This emphasis has restored the question of the situation in Africa to the international arena. The Security Council has also monitored the situation in areas of tension in Africa through close follow-up and correct decisions taken vis-à-vis the situations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries, in addition to

completing the preparations for the Security Council mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

We express our satisfaction that, for the first time, the Security Council, under your presidency, Sir, has convened regular formal briefings on the Middle East. For years, we looked forward to such an opportunity to discuss the situation in that explosive region, which represents a true threat to international peace and security. The Security Council has a special responsibility vis-à-vis developments in the region. We believe that the briefing by Mr. Roed-Larsen, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, was very informative and encouraging and gave the Security Council additional information that accurately reflects the situation on the ground. Mr. Roed-Larsen, after all, works in the region and is most knowledgeable about developments there.

We feel that such briefings, as well as the important subsequent discussions, are a first step on the road towards correcting the Security Council's work in this regard. In many countries, the Council is often accused of employing double standards in debating and considering issues pertaining to the Middle East and in assuming its responsibilities towards that region.

My delegation believes that the open debate of the Security Council on the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee was successful. It offered an opportunity to all Members to express their opinions and positions on terrorism and the appropriate means for eradicating it through the promotion of joint international action. The open debate was also a valuable opportunity for many delegations to express their views on such sensitive matters as the need to define the terrorism we are combating and to distinguish between it and the legitimate struggle against foreign occupation.

Mr. President, your achievements this month have indeed been considerable, but we had hoped that another area would have been added to these achievements, namely greater transparency in the working methods of the Security Council and in its interaction with non-members, in keeping with the new formula that we have discussed on a number of occasions in Council meetings. We are confident that the first steps taken in the context of this formula by your successor, the Permanent Representative of Mexico, will provide further opportunities for States to express their views and opinions on the proceedings in the Security Council. The members of the Council thus can become more aware of shortcomings in the Council's work and of areas that might require further attention.

We had also hoped to conclude the discussions that we began on the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, taking into consideration Singapore's proposals in this regard, which, we believe, take into account all of our aspirations in its current form.

Of course, we support close cooperation between the Council and the Economic and Social Council. The participation by the President of the Economic and Social Council in the debate on the situation in Africa was most welcome. We should like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that last year Syria participated very actively in efforts to enhance substantive relations between the two bodies in a manner that would respect their spheres of activity and their competences within the United Nations. We believe that continuing debate and dialogue on this issue will allow us to achieve the desired result.

Mr. President, I wish to extend to you our gratitude and appreciation. In addition, before closing, allow me to highlight the Security Council's activities vis-à-vis Afghanistan and East Timor, as we believe that those efforts, which we deeply appreciated, were most valuable. The future of Afghanistan and East Timor is very important not only to Asia but also to the world, and we hope that the effective steps taken by the Security Council will promote peace, progress and development and enable the people of East Timor in particular to achieve independence and begin to build their future. We thank you once again for all your efforts.

The President: I thank the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for the very kind words addressed to me and to the Mauritian team.

Mr. Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on the manner in which you guided the work of the Security Council during the month of January. Allow me also to recall that Mexico joined the Security Council on 1 January, following a 20-year-long absence. Indeed, the work carried out during this month has confirmed the appropriateness of Mexico's decision to seek membership in the Security Council, with a view to

participating in the creative and intensive work of this body and thus contributing to the development of the United Nations and to the quest to achieve international peace and security.

Mr. President, we are gratified that the first 30 days of Mexico's participation in the work of the Security Council took place under the presidency of Mauritius, and in particular under your guidance and leadership, because we have found that Mexico's major concerns and the vision it wishes to contribute to the work of the Council were reflected in the manner in which you have guided the work of the Council during the past month.

First, we agree with you, Sir, that the work of the Council must progress in the direction of much greater transparency. In the past 30 days we have seen examples of how this greater transparency has benefited, and will continue to benefit, the work of the Council. The will of the United Nations and of the Council to achieve this greater transparency has been reflected in the fact that recent meetings on Africa, held on your initiative and which successfully took place in this very Chamber, were disseminated throughout the world over the Internet, thus rendering them accessible not only in Africa, where, I am sure, there was great interest in the debate, but also in Latin America and in Mexico itself.

This is useful because it means that, in our countries, on the basis of the Security Council's debates, people will become aware of the commitments that are being undertaken in the United Nations and of the efforts that are being made to resolve the problems encountered in the process of achieving peace, in the context of a broad vision and in a responsible manner, focusing on the tasks that will enable us to establish lasting peace.

There are many aspects of your presidency and of the work achieved by the Council in the past month that deserve to be perpetuated. With respect to the debate on Africa, we believe that, through the presidential statement we have adopted and through the debates held in this Chamber, paths have been opened and guidelines elaborated that should be followed. We have committed ourselves to maintaining the Council's focus on a further exploration of the various opinions and points of view that have emerged in the context of the consultation mechanism established by opening the debate to the rest of the membership of the United Nations, and through involvement with regional organizations and with other agencies of the United Nations system that are active in Africa.

The prospect of the establishment of a working group on the basis of the discussions held in this Chamber represents a commitment that we intend to uphold and further deepen. What has been achieved this month in terms of making Africa the focus of this body should serve as a basis for further work in that direction.

We believe also that it is very meaningful and symbolic that under your presidency, Sir, we were able to successfully complete the process of the participation of the United Nations — not only of the Council — in ensuring East Timor's transition to independence. It is more than symbolic; it is the culmination of lengthy and tireless efforts, fraught with many difficulties, which have finally led to the adoption of a resolution that will continue the work of the Council and of the Organization in East Timor until the day of independence, at which time we will reassess the respective roles of the United Nations and of the international community in supporting development efforts and consolidating an independent East Timor.

We believe that the consultation mechanisms and practices that you have used and that the Council has integrated into its work during this period are a guarantee that its deliberations and decisions will increasingly enjoy the consensus of the community of States that are the United Nations, as well as the support of international public opinion.

In this respect, we found it particularly noteworthy that work was undertaken in the area of combating terrorism. After resolution 1373 (2001) was adopted as a result of the events in New York and Washington, the international community found a work dynamic, of which the Security Council was a prime example, for discussing the immediate commitments of countries in the fight against terrorism, and to do so in a spirit that ensured that the decisions taken would be supported by international law and would be taken by States in the multilateral forums provided by the Charter of the United Nations. The profundity, the seriousness and the professionalism shown in the work undertaken in compliance with resolution 1373 (2001) to combat terrorism are also an obligation for the Council's activities in the days to come.

I would like to conclude, Sir, by thanking your country and you personally for the work you have carried out at the head of the Council. Mexico's presence means that we will continue to work together, as colleagues, toward the same objectives of the quest for peace that the Council has set for itself. You have left us some tasks that we must complete, and two of these are very important.

The first task concerns the reorganization of the work relating to the report of the Council to the General Assembly on its activities. We think the groundwork has been laid for a discussion in the near future that should soon enable us to reach a consensus in the Council and provide to the Assembly in August a report that reflects the concerns of members with regard to the future work of the Council.

The second task, part of the same process, is the analysis of the activities every month, about which a consensus is gradually emerging — and today's fruitful work is in this direction — to make this a participative exercise, in which the opinions of Member States are presented, that will enrich and nurture the work of the Council with the points of view and contributions of all the Members of the United Nations, in particular those of us who are members of the Council.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to thank you once again and congratulate you on the work you have accomplished this month.

The President: I thank Ambassador Aguilar Zinser for his kind words addressed to me, my country and my team.

Ms. Foo (Singapore): First of all, we hope that the Chinese delegation will convey our delegation's tribute and best wishes to Ambassador Shen.

Let me also congratulate Mauritius for its very successful presidency of the Security Council this month. Successful presidencies are not accidental; they are the result of painstaking preparations and unceasing efforts behind the scenes. An example of Mauritius's prompt preparations was the circulation of its provisional programme of work, together with a set of explanatory notes and a list of the objectives of its presidency, on 21 December last year. This allowed Council members, especially the incoming members, to gear up for the month and for the new year.

Looking ahead and projecting into the future is important. At the same time, it is equally important to look back and examine whether we have actually achieved the objectives we set out. Such wrap-up sessions are intended as an opportunity for us to take a step back to look at our successes and failures and to examine longer-term trends that could guide our intermediate steps, as well as an opportunity to find concrete ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the Council.

In an attempt to improve the transparency of the Council's deliberations, Council members decided that such an analytical and critical examination of its own work in a public meeting could help non-members better appreciate the thinking and considerations that went into the outcome produced by the Council. Unfortunately, the last couple of public wrap-up sessions have not attracted much interest in the rest of the United Nations community. This session is not much better.

One consolation is that some non-Council members indicated that they had watched the proceedings on television instead of coming to the Council Chamber, since their physical presence was not needed. This, in fact, is effective transparency, combining technology with the will of the Council to conduct as much of its work in public as possible. Somewhat similar are the daily summaries of consultations provided by the presidency on its own web site, a practice that we support and hope will be continued by future presidencies.

Another consolation, perhaps, is that the public meetings have verbatim records. This allows all who are interested to have full access to the discussion. In fact, we would recommend all United Nations members to read the verbatim records of the last wrap-up session, held on 21 December, during which Council members made use of the opportunity to review and wrap up their work, not just for the month but for the entire year. The five outgoing members also took the opportunity to give their valedictory statements on their two-year Council term. On our part, we sought to provide a year-end report card on the key issues handled by the Council. We categorized five successful, five unsuccessful and five moderately successful files.

Turning to this month's programme, we find that there are clearly a number of successes. One clear success of Mauritius's presidency is its strong focus on Africa, devoting time to almost all the African issues

on the Council's agenda, putting into practice the Council's oft-repeated call for preventive action in the well-timed issuance of a press statement on the situation in Madagascar, and the highly successful and well-attended open meeting on the situation in Africa on 29 and 30 January, which was, of course, also webcast live on the United Nations web site.

Africa is a continent that needs and deserves the Council's attention and resources, even as we take on the challenge of combating international terrorism. We are therefore thankful for the useful discussions we had on several African issues and the outcomes we adopted, including the presidential statement earlier today.

The open debate on East Timor was successful in reinforcing the need for a continued significant United Nations presence in post-independence East Timor. There was wide support for the Secretary-General's recommendations for the successful peacekeeping operation the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), even as the Council and the wider United Nations membership look forward to further specific proposals from the Secretary-General on the follow-on United Nations mission. It was recognized that the Organization must stay the course to make East Timor a success story.

We are particularly grateful to Mauritius for chairing several meetings, both informal and formal, of the Working Group on Documentation and Procedures. We are pleased to announce that Council members are very close to agreement on a note by the President laying down a new format for the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. We hope that, once agreed upon, the new format will be seen to be responsive to the views of Member States and that it will significantly improve the relationship between the two organs. As the Secretariat will need quick guidance in order to prepare for this year's report, we are pleased to hear that the Mexican presidency next month will give the matter an extra push, which should allow us to finalize this matter on time.

Another achievement of the Mauritian presidency was the appointment of the Permanent Representative of Cameroon as the new Chairman of the Working Group on sanctions rather than letting the Working Group fall by the wayside. We hope that under that representative's able leadership we will soon be able to reach some conclusions on the outcome of the Working Group.

There were two important achievements on the counter-terrorism front. First, Council members restructured the sanctions targeted against members of the Al Qaeda organization and of the Taliban and against other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them. Resolution 1390 (2002) takes into account the changed and new circumstances in Afghanistan, while recognizing that the Al Qaeda network and other related terrorist groups continue to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. While resolution 1390 (2002) now has global application, it none the less provides some continuity and retains mechanisms such as the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the consolidated list issued by the Committee, and the Monitoring Group established by resolution 1363 (2001).

Secondly, on the counter-terrorism front, the interest and the level of participation in the public meeting on counter-terrorism demonstrated that the international community remains seized of the effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Apart from enabling Ambassador Greenstock to brief United Nations Members on progress in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, it also allowed Member States to have an interactive exchange with Ambassador Greenstock. The small innovation of toggling between speakers and responses by Ambassador Greenstock could be repeated in future meetings when appropriate.

Another significant achievement was the adoption of the note by the President, document S/2002/56, of 14 January, which agreed to an additional mechanism in the convening of joint meetings of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries on specific peacekeeping operations. Sustained efforts to strengthen the triangular relationship among the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat will go a long way towards ensuring the success and implementation of Council decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations. For example, an earlier step forward was made with the establishment of private meetings with troop-contributing countries as a new mechanism under resolution 1353 (2001) in June last year.

However, we believe that it is not always necessary to convene private meetings of the Security Council with troop-contributing countries. In fact, in section 5 (d) of the assessment contained in the last report submitted by the Working Group (S/2001/1335), the Group concluded that consultation meetings chaired by the President of the Council should be used as the principal means of consultation with troop-contributing countries, and that public or private meetings should be convened for a full and high-level consideration of issues of critical importance to a specific peacekeeping operation. We would suggest that, in order to implement both the letter and the spirit of resolution 1353 (2001), future presidencies could consider holding consultation meetings rather than private meetings with troop-contributing countries for routine renewal of peacekeeping operations. Instead of generating a genuine and interactive dialogue with troop-contributing countries, the formal atmosphere of a private meeting may in fact sometimes stifle discussion.

It was also unfortunate that there was no discussion whatsoever at the public meeting on Kosovo of two issues that Singapore raised: first, a regular review mechanism and, secondly, an exit strategy for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We maintain that with the impending transfer of authority from UNMIK to the Kosovo self-government authorities, this is the right time to address those issues.

Council members also devoted some time this month to discussing how wrap-up meetings could be improved. Owing to time constraints, we could not implement the very useful suggestion made by Ambassador Jean-David Levitte to engage in and generate better interaction with interested non-members of the Council. Although the proposal did not find unanimous support within the Council and may still need to be fine-tuned, we are confident that the Mexican presidency will build on the very useful exchanges we had this month. We hope that we will be able to reach agreement on a format early next month so that all of us can start disseminating the message early to the general United Nations membership in order to encourage their participation.

Finally, apart from focusing the wrap-up meetings on one or two topics, we also believe that one important way of concretely demonstrating the importance of wrap-ups is to follow up on some of the issues raised. Although there will be a verbatim record of today's debate, it might be useful for the Mauritian presidency to consider tabulating some of the key outstanding issues and new proposals; the list could be passed on to the Mexican presidency or circulated to all Council members so that we can monitor the necessary follow-up.

The President: I thank the representative of Singapore for the very kind words she addressed to me and to the Mauritian team.

Mr. Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): This is the first time that Cameroon is participating in a wrap-up meeting of this kind. The remarks I shall be making will therefore be of a general nature.

First of all, Sir, my delegation wants to reaffirm our hearty congratulations on the extremely constructive way in which you presided over the work of the Council in January 2002. You proposed a programme of work that was balanced and covered many items; it enabled us to consider the thorniest of the issues facing us in the realm of international peace and security. Some of those issues concerned specific regions, such as Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East; others concerned more general matters, such as terrorism.

We thank you, Mr. President, for having ensured in your programme of work that Africa would remain at the centre of the Council's concerns. The Council considered national and regional conflicts, and even, in the case of Madagascar, anticipated an evolving situation. The Council also considered the overall situation in Africa, and did so in a high-level public debate. Your preparations for that debate were painstaking, Sir, which enabled us to focus our discussion on formulating specific proposals for action. One of those proposals was to establish a Security Council working group with a mandate to monitor the implementation of the Council's recommendations on Africa and to find ways to improve cooperation with the Economic and Social Council. It was also proposed that a focal point should be designated within the Secretariat to enable us to centralize the Secretariat's multisectoral activities on Africa.

The most important thing concerning that debate is to now highlight the different problems that Africa faces. We have made much progress since the first interactive debate of 1999. Now we have to go deeper,

and this is why we appreciate the proposal and the decision to create the working group. We must now delve more deeply by no longer taking the situation in its entirety but by dealing with specific points of particular issues. I think that it is in this direction that the United Kingdom will be orienting itself. In any case, it is towards this end that Cameroon is gearing its preparations for its presidency in October 2002.

The question of Afghanistan was also the subject of a specific follow-up. The Council thus contributed to the restoration of peace and stability in that country, and also showed its support for the new authorities.

The question of terrorism was the subject of a constructive public debate that allowed all Members of the United Nations, whether members of the Council or not, to give an account of their efforts in implementing resolution 1373 (2001). We said at the time that the interactive formula used for that debate was a wise one, and we hoped that it would serve as a model.

On the whole, this first month in the Security Council has left a very positive impression on us. We have benefited from the support and cooperation of our colleagues from other delegations and we have worked in a cordial atmosphere, which you were able to create and maintain, Mr. President.

The situation in the Middle East is of great concern, and we would have hoped to see more attention devoted to it. We are glad to note that this will be the case from now on. Significant and real progress has been made in the sphere of transparency, thanks to the regular briefings of Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock, and thanks to the presidency, which has made all information on our work available to Members through the web site.

Once again we would like to extend all our congratulations, Sir, for the way you have conducted the proceedings this month. Thank you for having given Africa the attention that its particular situation deserves while of course also attaching as much importance to other situations in which peace is threatened.

The President: I thank the representative of Cameroon for the very kind words addressed to me and the Mauritian team.

Mr. Williamson (United States of America): We join in commending you, Sir, and your entire team for your outstanding tenure as our Council President.

We feel the Security Council did a good job in January, taking significant steps in several important areas. We have built a sound basis for the next couple of months. I will not review everything that we did, but want to cite a couple of major items which point to the future. We have set in place further new ideas and procedures for developing a more transparent, interactive relationship with troop contributors. This is important for United Nations peacekeeping and for the Council's continued effort to do its job well. We will keep trying to improve the usefulness of consultations under resolution 1353 (2001), and develop the new mechanism we have put in place. This will unfold over the next couple of months.

We appreciate Ambassador Strømmen's willingness to take on the responsibility of chairing our Working Group on peacekeeping and look forward to his leadership. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Chairman reported to the Council, and its work is very well in hand. This will be a major component of our work in the coming months. This is a real success for the Council and for the international community.

We also heard from Afghan Interim Authority Chairman Karzai in a meeting that was a model of efficiency. Afghanistan will be much on our minds in the next months as we build on the success, which the Chairman described, and address the challenges of which we are all aware. Again, we have a strong basis for further United Nations actions and Council involvement.

Finally, we have just finished a major discussion on Africa and how the Council can better engage with and support our African friends. As a result of that discussion, under the leadership of Mauritius, we have adopted today a significant statement looking to future steps we can take. We have also agreed to consider establishing a working group to help us continue this effort and to enhance coordination with the Economic and Social Council. The United States wants to be sure that it has focus, is substantive and makes a concrete contribution to the Council's work. Last year the Security Council had 83 formal meetings on Africa. We hope in the future that we can all find a way to have fewer speeches and more results.

Again, this is an excellent beginning to the new year, a very heavy agenda. We did many things well. My delegation looks forward to building on and improving the Council's work, to maintaining

transparency and interaction and to making the Council more effective.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States for his kind words addressed to me and my team.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I apologize for just arriving, but I had a counter-terrorism subcommittee meeting, where we were reviewing the first series of reports. I did not want my absence to be taken to mean that I was not satisfied with the work of the Security Council this month.

I very briefly would like to express my gratitude to you, Mr. President, your delegation and your Minister. You had a very complicated month, and you steered our ship in a dignified way. We adopted all the decisions that we were supposed to adopt, and I sincerely congratulate you on that.

I have just noticed that the Secretariat has also given us a gift, an elegant carafe of water, so this Chamber is becoming better and better. I hope that this will improve our mood next month.

The President: I wish to express my sincere thanks on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf to all present for the very gracious words and expressions of appreciation for the work carried out during the Mauritian presidency of the Security Council.

We view presidencies not in isolation, but as a continuous and succeeding exercise in the pursuit of our goal. We are therefore very much comforted to learn that Mexico will follow up on some of the very important issues that we have discussed this month relating to, for example, increasing transparency and interaction with the non-members of the Security Council.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those from the larger United Nations membership, the non-Council members who are here today. We do apologize that we were not able to let everybody know that this meeting had been postponed from this morning because we were not able to conclude our consultations in time. I do hope that next month the format will be changed and we will be able to have greater interaction with non-Council members and therefore get more participation from them.

I would like to express once again our grateful thanks to all the delegations on the Council for the cooperation extended to us and for facilitating the discharge of our responsibilities this month. We would also like to express our deepest appreciation to the Security Council secretariat, headed by Mr. Joseph Stephanides, for the tremendous support. A particular word of thanks to Mr. Aleksandar Martinovic and Ms. Norma Chan for their support and cooperation.

Before I pass the baton to Mexico as they assume the presidency for the month of February, we offer them our very best wishes and wish them good luck for a very successful presidency.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.